

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014



## COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER DEVELOPMENT (CISEGD)

REG. No: 64/C72NW06/AR/014

B.P 332 Mankon-Bamenda North West Region of Cameroon

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*Motto: Empowering people that we may live together in harmony with nature and equality.*

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### 3. PREFACE:

The threat of food insecurity, extreme poverty, and rapid environmental degradation as well social inequality and political crises have presented new challenges for people in the world and there is need for a change in life style. There is therefore need to empower those directly affected by poverty, inequality, ecological destruction and human rights violations. Over the last few decades, profound changes have happened in the way food is produced, traded and consumed. Agricultural methods such as mono-cultivation, intensive livestock farming, slash and burn, have caused deforestation and the disappearance of water springs and wildlife in many communities and beyond. Poverty and Man's greed have put the lives of all living beings at risk causing farmers to take desperate measures just to increase food. All this endangers the lives of poor families because these practices are not sustainable. Thousands of years ago the Earth's top soil was darker and harvests were abundant and farming was done without necessarily using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Today is the reverse, if we don't start to protect natural resources, in very little time we will not have any soil that we can grow crops in and hunger will increase globally.

The book of Genesis in the Bible says that God commanded the Earth to produce trees, bushes and plants to feed all the living creatures that live on the face of the Earth, whether they be creatures of the land, sea or sky. But man has mistakenly taken an attitude of greed for economic gains/power that has led him or her to convert the planet into a desert and a hostile climate for his /herself and other living creatures on earth. *God can forgive many times but Mother Nature will never forgive us for destroying nature.*

This report will highlight the development activities/projects implemented/ongoing within the programs of the organization as well as achievements in the year 2014. During this period, we focused attention not only on the fight against hunger but also on the economic empowerment of our target beneficiaries through mobilizing local resources and building projects that will improve the livelihood of people at grassroots level. We achieved this by strengthening local communities and target group of beneficiaries to priorities' their development projects for a more sustainable development, in the course of time we would demonstrate the ability to increase their own benefit margins from low-cost but fast income-generating activities that support livelihoods and safeguard biodiversity in particular and environment in general. We have therefore witnessed the emergence of livelihood support systems such as, Yam production , bee farming , mushroom farming, agro forestry and rice cultivation as well as a series of local groups who expressed interest in these systems. At moment, the difficult question is how to enhance the expansion and sustainability of such community-based initiatives being put in place. This support stems from our little work and effort with the grass roots in building local capacities in income-generating innovations, sustainable agriculture. While we would continue consolidating existing efforts, we would as well intensify the expansion of our activities to new communities. In addition, backstops to these activities and initiate other activities/projects such as sustainable agriculture in schools/environmental education , pig/poultry farming, organic vegetable farming , tree planting as well as a micro-credit scheme for women would be developed in the course of time.

## 4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/ SUMMARY

We wish to express our profound gratitude to the Asian Rural Institute Japan for skills and knowledge imparted in Mr. Ataba Jude Fonsah during the Rural leaders training program in Japan. It is with these skills and knowledge gained from the training that Mr. Jude is currently coordinating the activities of our newly established organization as well as sharing this skills with volunteers and community people. We are most grateful to all our staff and member of the Board for their commitment in the establishment of the organization and the realization of the activities/ongoing projects .

We are also particularly thankful to the **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), in the USA**, for the financial support given CISEGD to fight hunger by planting trees to improve on soil conservation and increase yam production for rural women of Batibo Cameroon. It is within the framework of such partnership that CISEGD is contributing to government's efforts in environmental management, fight against hunger and sustainable development in our country, Cameroon. We hope this partnership and collaboration grows from strength to strength in helping rural women and communities meet the challenges of conservation and livelihood improvement in the Batibo landscape of Cameroon.

Our sincere thanks also goes to the local Presbyterian church for the support and involvement during the mid term process evaluation. In addition, we also thank the Ministry of agriculture and rural development, Ministry of environment and nature protection (Sub-Divisional Delegations Batibo), Batibo Council and Ministry of Territorial Administration for their varied support in the course of projects and other activities

### 4.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the beginning of January 2014 the organization secured an office space and move from a member's building to a permanent building that is considered today CISEGD office. Situated in the communities were most our activities and projects have been envisaged and are ongoing.

In January 2014, CISEGD together with some selected rural women of Batibo initiated the Tree yam Planting Project with financial support from the **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) in the USA**. This project seeks to fight hunger by improving soil conservation and increase yam production for rural women in Batibo Cameroon. Through this project 130 rural women were empowered with basic skills and knowledge in agroforestry and yam production techniques and over 10,000 nitrogen fixing trees were planted to provide sustainable long-term solutions to the threat of rapid devastating degradation of agricultural and forest landscapes, declining Yam yields, hunger, extreme poverty and climate change that have plagued these communities over the years. About 75 people from 4 groups were trained in mushroom cultivation while 35 persons have been trained on bee farming. 15 youths were also trained in upland rice cultivation and a demonstration farm established to practically teach them through learning by doing approach. Three partnerships and alliance have also been established during this period.

## 5. PRESENTATION OF CISEGD

Community Initiative for Sustainable Environment and Gender Development (CISEGD) is a registered non-profit Community-based Organization (CBO) working to fight hunger, reduce poverty and empower rural poor people and women to live in equality as well as in harmony with nature without exerting too much pressure on the environment. The organization's main offices is located at Guzang Village in Batibo Sub division some 43km away from Bamenda town .It was founded in 2011 as a Common Initiative Group (CIG) and gained the status of an Association in 2014 with Registered No. 64/C72NW06/AR/014 covering the entire North West Region. CISEGD was created by a group of people whom social, economic and ecological wellbeing of communities, underprivileged and marginalized people is their heartbeat; with profound dedication and commitment to look for sustainable solutions to environmental, gender and women rights problems in Cameroon.

**CISEGD's Mission Statement:** CISEGD's mission is to fight,hunger, poverty and build an environmentally healthy, safe and just society where everyone can unlock his or her potential and live in harmony with nature while enhancing their available local natural resources to become self-reliant and sustainable. This mission is base on three love principles: *Love God, Love Nature and Love Neighbor*

**Vision:** CISEGD envisions a just community where environmentally sound practices, gender equity, human rights and the dignity of the underprivileged are promoted and respected.

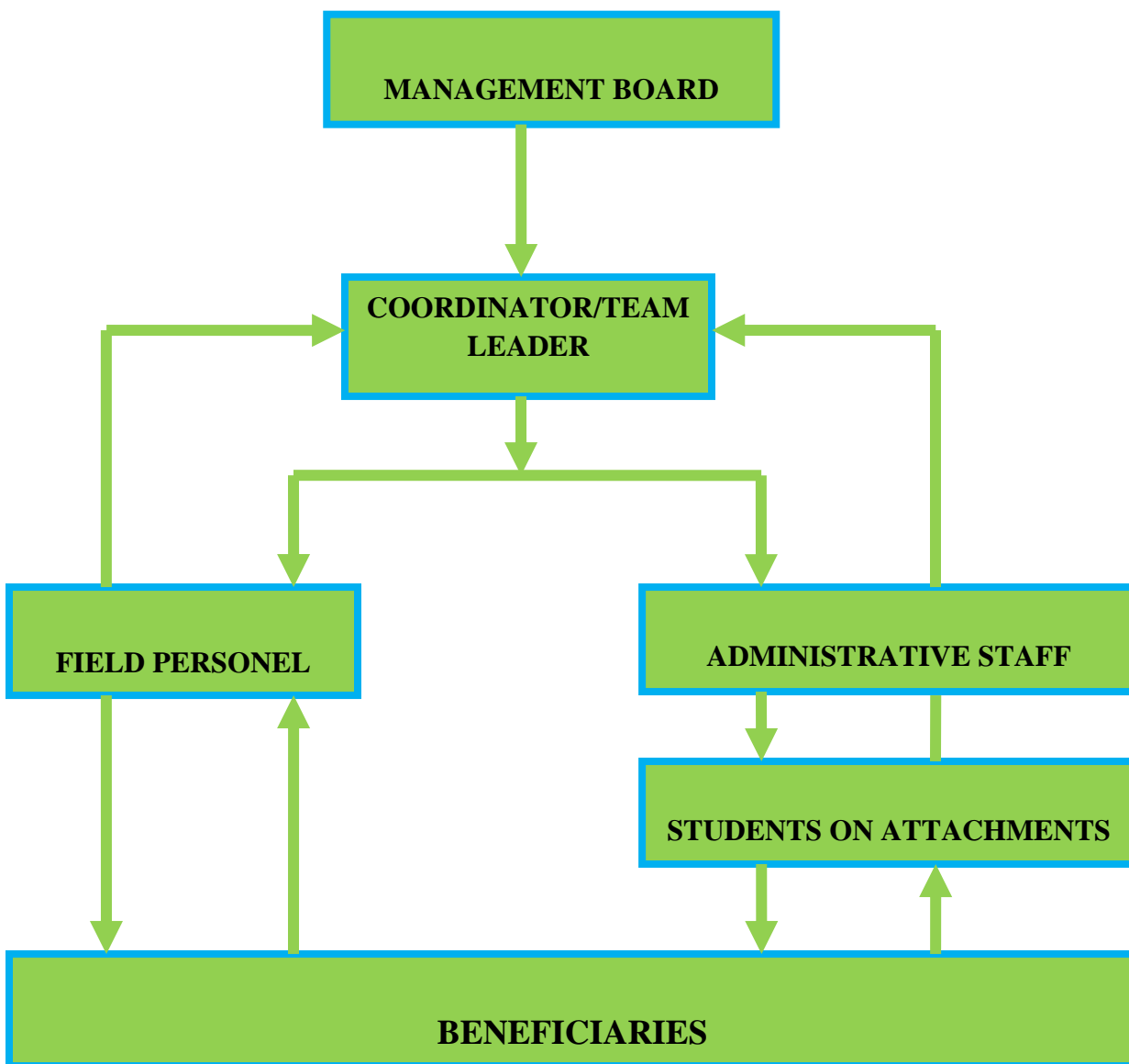
**Core Values** In order to serve the community better, CISEGD is guided by the following core values;

**Love, Honesty, Accountability and Team work**

### Objectives:

- ❖ Promote sound environmental conservation practices that are sustainable.
- ❖ Develop and promote action oriented programs that focus on gender balance and women empowerment as well as the prevention of gender based Violence and discrimination
- ❖ Promote a culture of peace that upholds human rights as well as respect the dignity for the underprivileged and marginalize group of people
- ❖ Promote and encourage farming practices that leads to sustainable agriculture and meet the needs of small scale farmers as well as help them understand their relationship to the environment and the food we eat.
- ❖ Improve on health of the population and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS as well as other related illness
- ❖ Promote and encourage girls and women education at both formal and informal level for a positive change and sustainable community development
- ❖ Conduct research, training and advocacy on identified environmental, gender and women rights problems in Cameroon

## 6. CISEGD ORGANIZATIONAL (FLOW) CHART



## 7. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION

S/N	Names	Function	Occupation
1	Tanjoh Frederic T	President	Educationist
2	Achoh Jacqueline Ngwa	Vice president	Banker
3	Ataba Jude Fonsah	Sectary general	Agricultural officer
4	Fonsah Pius Chick	Financial Sectary	Journalist
5	Agwe Siana	Treasurer	Social worker
6	Mbah Richard Teze	Technical adviser	Agric officer
7	Fonji Stanley Mbanyamsig	Legal adviser	Barrister solicitor



## 8. SECURING AN OFFICE FOR THE ORGANIZATION:

As a community based organization we decided to situate the office in the community as closer to the people we serve as possible. It is in the rural communities that poor people live and do a lot of farming. Since 2011 the organization has been functioning from a members building as part of his contribution for the organization. In early 2014 the organization was able to purchase a building in the community that is very accessible to the people that we serve. This building that is made up of 2 office rooms and a training hall was renovated and equipped with some office furniture and computers.



*Office under Renovation*



*Renovated office*

## 9. PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT

### 9.1 Tree yam project :

In January 2014, CISEGD together with some selected rural women in Batibo initiated the Tree yam Planting Project with financial support from the *Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) in the USA*. This project seeks to fight hunger by improving soil conservation and increase yam production for rural women in Batibo Cameroon. Through this project rural women are given basic skills and knowledge in agroforestry and yam production techniques to provide sustainable long-term solutions to the threat of rapid devastating degradation of agricultural and forest landscapes, declining Yam yields, hunger, extreme poverty and climate change that have plagued these communities over the years. These pilot projects that will be carried out for a period 12 months is intended to provide women with skills in yam production in association with agroforestry tress that conserve soils and mitigate climate change.



*Land preparation by women Groups*



*Family photo after land Preparation*





*Selection of Yam setts*



*Treatment of Yam setts*

Selected members of the women groups were also educated practically on yam sett selection and treatment. Yams were selected and practically cut with a knife to categorize them into 3 categories. Category 1 and 2 was noted to be the best category for the production of weigh yams (yams meant for consumption) while category 3 is for the production of mini yam setts meant for planting. After the selection, farmers were then thought how to treat the yam against root rot disease and yam beetle before planting. A packet of any systemic fungicide was mixed in bucket of 15 liters water with 5ml of insecticide and 2 hands full of wood ash. The selected yams sets were then deep in the water, starred with a stick and allowed for 30 minutes after which the yams are removed and place under shade for 24 hours to get dry by air. This techniques were received by the women farmers with a lot of motivation and enthusiasm with the hope that the end of the major disease that affects yam and reduce yields will soon be over.



*Teaching women on yam Planting techniques*



### 9.1.1 Bokashi Compost production .



*Bokashi compost Training*



*Charcoal production*

Bokashi is fermented organic fertilizer produced by mixing together organic materials like animal manure ,rice or wheat bran ,charcoal , soil and indigenous micro organisms (IMO) if available . It can be use as a substitute to chemical fertilizer to improve on soils and increase production. Bokashi dose not only provide the essential and trace elements in the soil but improve on the soil physical and chemical properties. During the process of fermentation (composting), harmful microorganisms that might attack crops like yams tubers are killed from the heat produced during fermentation or decomposition About 100 farmers from 5 groups were practically trained on this organic fertilizer production. This technique was to provide farmers with alternative means of soil improvement while the planted agroforestry fertilizer trees grow up to be able to trap atmospheric nitrogen and fix nitrogen in the soil for crops(nitrification). The technology is not only seen as a means of soil improvement but as a campaign for nature conservation. Wood shaving commonly known as saw dust was collected and bunt using a locally made chimney pot to produce charcoal.



*Teaching farmers practically how to prepare Bokashi fertilizer using available local waste*

Rural women farmers were thought on the use of available local resources and appropriate technology. 7 units of poultry manure, 3 units of charcoal, 3 units of top soil and 1 unit of wheat bran was measured and mixed together for the production of the fertilizer. The unit of measurement was a 15 liters bucket.

All the measured materials were poured together on the ground and watered little by little to reach a moisture content of 50-55%. The mixture was then turn over and over to ensure a homogenous mixture after which the moisture of the mixture was

tested by a squeeze test using the hand. The moisture content was reached as the mixture form a ball when squeezed with the hand and water does not come out between the fingers. Farmers participated within their respective groups in all the



*Hand test of Bokashi*



*Yams growing with Tress*



*Women joining Hands against Hunger*

A total of 6 women groups from 2 villages and 4 communities were fully engaged during the pilot phase of this project and over 10,000 Nitrogen fixing tress and prunus africana have so far been planted on 20,000 square meters farm land; reaching 130 direct beneficiaries most of whom are women. However the impact is not just measured in numbers of people reached but the qualitative difference the project made to the natural environment and to people lives that really counts. During this pilot phase, yam production on the demonstration plots have increased by 85%. Rural women are now more aware of the dangers of deforestation through cutting trees for yam stakes and fuel wood with most of them testifying that the nitrogen fixing trees planted have provided shade and made the soil better.

Because of this project, the skills that beneficiaries have acquired have enabled them to establish individual nurseries, and they now practice sustainable agriculture. Some women farmers are now collecting fertilizer tree seeds and selling to their fellow women farmers. These women farmers who are the initial beneficiaries are helping to educate their fellow women on the project. More and more women from neighboring villages are coming to us requesting that the project be expanded their villages.



## 9.2 Mushroom Farming



Mushroom is one of the most cherished delicacies eaten by most households in Cameroon especially the North West Region. Yet mushroom are strange phenomenon to many people because it's lived most of its year unnoticed under the ground or inside wood; only by fruiting it reveals its presence. In nature, mushroom will grow on fallen leaves, animal dropping or stumps of dead wood. It's their role in nature to decompose the complex organic structures left behind by plants and animals, which they intend to regain access to minerals and other nutrients present in the substrate.

In North West Region of Cameroon, most of the edible mushroom is gotten from the wild especially during the first raindrops. These species of mushroom commonly called "cocobiaco" are much sought after. Many wild species of mushroom are being collected for consumption far more than are cultivated because their cultivation parameters at present are not yet known specially fungi, which lived in close association with other organisms. For these reason, mankind has to rely on nature.



*Substrate preparation*



*Sterilized substrate*



*Substrate spawning (planting)*

Mushroom cultivation has many advantages, no arable land is needed, agricultural waste is converted into fertilizer and soil conditioner, its income generating and the mushroom provides extra source of protein and valuable vitamins and minerals. In our continuous effort to promote sustainable agriculture, CISEGD Cameroon have been working with communities to train them on mushroom production, 20 women groups have been trained. The farmers use the spent substrate to condition the soil or apply as organic fertilizer. We have been educating farmers on how to use available local resources like animal and crop waste to produce mushroom it is only through such activity that farmers and community members are able to recognizes the relationship between our environment, our health and the food we eat. Local farmers now can cultivate mushroom and consume it as an alternative protein source and transform it into other products such as mushroom juice and animal folder



*Sprouted mushroom*



*The joy of a good harvest*



*Multiple sprout of mushroom*

### 9.3 Bee Farming



Bee farming is one of the main activity of CISEGD aimed at empowering people to live in harmony with nature as well as conserves the environment. We therefore empower people through apiculture trainings and nature conservation programs. CISEGD believe that planting a tree will save a bee and more trees planted bring more honey, more money and more happiness. With limited resources we have trained 5 groups on bee farming and the construction of bee hives using local available materials. CISEGD sensitizes the communities in which it works to shun the destructive practice of using bush fires when carrying out harvesting of honey from the wild,

and actively encourages afforestation with emphasizes on melliferous plants. We also sensitize communities on the dangers of excessive use of pesticides that are harmful to bees and other wild pollinators. Bees and other pollinating insects play an essential role in ecosystems.



*Hive construction*



*Family photos after Bee training workshop*



A third of all our food that we eat depends on their pollination. A nation/world without pollinators would be devastating for food production. Bees make more than honey – they are key to food production because they pollinate crops. Bees, and insects like butterflies, wasps, and flies all provide valuable pollination services. This beekeeping activity is to build the capacity of communities in modern bee farming techniques and in production of bee by-products; · Train rural people on the practice of modern beekeeping and apiculture techniques to increase honey production; · Solve the problems encountered by bee farmers with respect to hive transfer, colonization, colony division, harvesting, apiary development and management, decline in honeybee, processing of honey, hive equipment and hive by-products. Working with communities on this activity will enhance biodiversity, ensure food security and reduce poverty among rural poor people and above all promote sustainable community development.



*Hives baiting*



*Hives transportation*



*Hives installation*



## 10. Partnership and Networking

CISEGD created some partnerships locally and internationally. These partnerships will promote Collaboration in information sharing, fund raising and capacity building. These partnerships are helping CISEGD grow in knowledge; skills and experience through information sharing, exchange visits and fund raising to better protect the rights of women, conserve environment and better serve women and their children



On February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014, partners from MANOS UNIDAS in Spain visited our office to discuss partnership collaboration on a project for women and how to better support our effort towards solving environmental and gender problems in the communities that we serve. This visit was an opportunity to meet and talk face with our Spanish partners, share with them of some activities carried out by the organization as well as challenges and develop possible ways to better support some of the envisaged projects in future. They were impressed with the organization activities carried out so far.

The partners were then taken on a tour in the village to meet some selected beneficiaries members of the groups involve in the project. The project was previewed for duration of 3 years with the aim to enhance biodiversity, increase maize production and provide additional income for women involve in maize production. During the meeting, group members share with them their needs of the project and how the project will help reduce their dependency on synthetic chemical inputs that have not only caused damage to the environment but to their health . The Partners left very satisfied and promise return or communicate for possible ways of any future support for the project. The visit was full of warm and fraternity as could be observed from the expressions in the pictures.

### *Family photo with Guest partners*



During this period, other partnership and networking relevant to the work of the organization were also established. The organization was represented in a meeting at SHUMAS that was aimed at



creating Future in our hands Cameroon Network organized by Future in Our Hands (FIOH UK), The aim of the network is to partner with members organization within the network to share experiences on best practices that

leads to Sustainable development. It was an opportunity to meet with ARI graduate from SHUMAS who is the coordinator of the network and working with SHUMAS as well. In other networking activities , our organization has also been admitted as a member of the poverty and conservation Learning Group UK(PCLG).

We are also collaborating with the local councils, Department of the ministry of agriculture and rural development, Ministry of environment and nature protection as well as other local NGOs working in our area as well as local churches all in the effort to promote sustainable development and sustain outcomes from activities and projects implemented

## 11. Envisage Projects:

- ❖ Promoting Organic farming through trainings and information sharing to improve food production, nutrition and ensure income security.
- ❖ Help save honey bees and other pollinators in Cameroon
- ❖ Community farm forestry project for biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement
- ❖ Environmental education in schools
- ❖ Enhancing soil biodiversity and farmland productivity through agroforestry and vermicomposting
- ❖ Agroforestry and coffee growing system development to enhance biodiversity and improve livelihoods
- ❖ Economic development : a microcredit for rural women of Batibo Cameroon
- ❖ Pig and Chicken project
- ❖ Empowering rural poor families through snail farming
- ❖ Organic upland rice production to empower disadvantage youths
- ❖ Ending early and force marriage in rural communities of Batibo Cameroon

## 12. Other activities

CISEGD also carried out these activities on regular basis

- ❖ Project writing and developing existing project to adapt to the demand of various funding bodies;
- ❖ Voluntary services has been offered by members of CISEGD when need be to make things work.
- ❖ Creation of new partnerships, searching for funding opportunities and volunteers in her field of action to improve her activities

## 13. Challenges and problems

- ❖ CISEGD still lack some basic working materials like computers, Projector and digital camera to snap pictures of all her activities and training. This is a big problem to us as most of our activities do not have photos because this handicap;
- ❖ CISEGD has not got enough funds to execute identified projects;
- ❖ CISEGD staff has stipends because they do not have enough money to pay salaries;
- ❖ CISEGD needs institutional support in form of office running cost, equipping of office and wages for staff.
- ❖ CISEGD members are reflecting on these challenges and thinking of possible methods to raise funds to support her activities

## 14. CONCLUSION

CISEGD has again moved forward this year as compared to last year. The movement is slow but steady. The spirit and zeal to keep on moving is increasing. CISEGD sees the future to be bright if she continues to use the experience she gathers to tackle the challenges that she faces to build the future. CISEGD is grateful for all the assistance in all forms she received from partners and well wishers that helped her work towards attaining her objectives in 2014. We are also grateful for all the organizations that accepted to work with us in 2014 to make positive change in communities and the lives of the people that we serve. We all look forward for a better cooperation, networking and partnership with you and new partners in future.

Despite above mentioned achievements, we faced a number of difficulties including resistance in some areas to desist from unsustainable farming practices, inadequate financial resources to sustain the micro-enterprises already developed with community people. In 2015, we shall be working to ensure the sustainability of alternative micro-enterprises introduced to in rural poor communities, improve the capacity of rural and broaden the scope of our projects through activities such as environmental conservation programs in schools, community health and education as well as adult literacy an HIV/aids, construction of Livestock Unit, Habitat . By so doing the project will not only be responding to conservation needs but also to the needs of people whose lives are intricately linked conservation and resource management.

As a community base organization, we are working with rural people who are considered at the margin of the society. A society where; some families cannot afford three square meals a day, food is produced but people are still malnourish, food security is threaten by climate change ,some kids especially girls are denied the opportunity for basic education and thus migrated to the city to become house maids or street vendors and a society where the very poor live and struggle for a better live. What inspire us the most is that we feel joy when this people are happy and sad when they are sad and so we wake up every day thinking of how to work together with the community people to render services and projects/programs that will improve on their livelihood and maintain a happy and prosperous community where everyone can live with hope of reaching his or her fullest potential. That is the energy that drives or inspires us and our work.

CSEGD therefore invites everyone to join her and work for sustainable environment, Gender development as well as improve the livelihood of the very poor people and communities who are struggling for a better live. Your assistant in any form will give them hope. We believe that together we can all make our societies and world better.

