



Image Credit & Copyright: REFACOF

RESTORE HER RIGHTS

Women-led Restoration of Mangrove in Londji 1, Cameroon



About Londji

- Londji Village is located in Kribi 2 Arrondissement in the Ocean Department, with a population of 800 people.
- Major economic activity is fishing, which fulfills household consumption as well.
- Londji 1's land is shrinking due to rising ocean temperatures, accompanied by intense monsoons, violent storms and flooding.
- Supported by REFACOF, women in Londji 1 took action to revive their damaged mangroves.

Challenges and Risk Mitigation

- High tides and unpredictable weather created safety risks for the site, community, and project team.
- Mangrove areas drying due to invasive species like the Nypa Palm.
- Shared use of mangroves by neighbouring communities complicates protection efforts.
- Opportunities to replicate the project in other degraded areas of Londji.
- A need to equip more women with skills and materials for mangrove restoration.
- The project must mobilise funds for local livelihoods and long-term sustainability.



This case study demonstrates that ecosystem restoration is not only possible but transformative when women are involved. By restoring mangroves, women in Londji have restored livelihoods, food security, cultural continuity, and community resilience.

Before Restoration: Self-strengthening as a stepping stone towards transformation

- Mangroves provide fish, timber, coastal protection, pollution control, and carbon storage.
- Londji was selected for its severe degradation, strategic location, and its economic value to women fishers.
- Challenges for the region include frequent flooding, poor housing, uncontrolled mangrove logging for pirogues and smoked fish, and climate change impacts.
- Human pressures include population growth, wood harvesting, harmful fishing, and low awareness.
- Participatory management remains weak.
- Women, especially GIC PROREMAN members are the primary beneficiaries.

During Restoration: *Signs of renewal*

The aim of this restoration process is for REFACOF to support the women of Londji in restoring degraded mangrove areas by planting twenty million trees to rejuvenate the area, bring back fish species and the diverse biodiversity destroyed by unsustainable management practices.

- Reforestation of mangrove swamps by the women of Londji 1 has led to the gradual return of fish, the local population's primary resource.
- Londji women have acquired knowledge and skills for successful restoration.
- 5000 mangrove seedlings have been planted to help restore the plant cover.
- An area of one hectare has been entirely reforested.



Sustaining Restoration: *Actions and reflections towards transformative process*

- Restoration in Londji is a long-term effort led by women through continuous monitoring.
- Awareness and training have mobilised women, youth, and teenagers, ensuring inter-generational stewardship.
- Communities now use sustainable practices like coconut husks and energy-saving stoves, boosting income and conservation.
- Shared mangrove resources remain challenging, but their value for fishing and livelihoods is widely recognised.
- Continued support for restoration and alternative energy solutions is essential.



Recommendations

- Strengthen conservation-linked livelihoods.
- Expand restoration to more degraded sites and establish mangrove Community Forests.
- Improve local access to climate adaptation finance.
- Foster community learning exchanges.
- Amplify women's leadership in governance and policy spaces.
- Secure government support through official registration.
- Equip communities to claim their rights under the CBD and Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Partner with ONACC to build capacity and share climate information.



Read the full story in English and French
by REFACOF

For further information:

Rubina Pradhan, Coordinator,
Restore Her Rights Initiative.
rubina.pradhan@women4biodiversity.org

More information available at:
www.women4biodiversity.org