



HIMALAYAN
INSTITUTE®
CAMEROON, AFRICA

Cameroon

2010 Annual Report

Himalayan Institute Cameroon

2010 RECAP

This report outlines the accomplishments and major achievements of all Himalayan Institute activities in Cameroon in 2010

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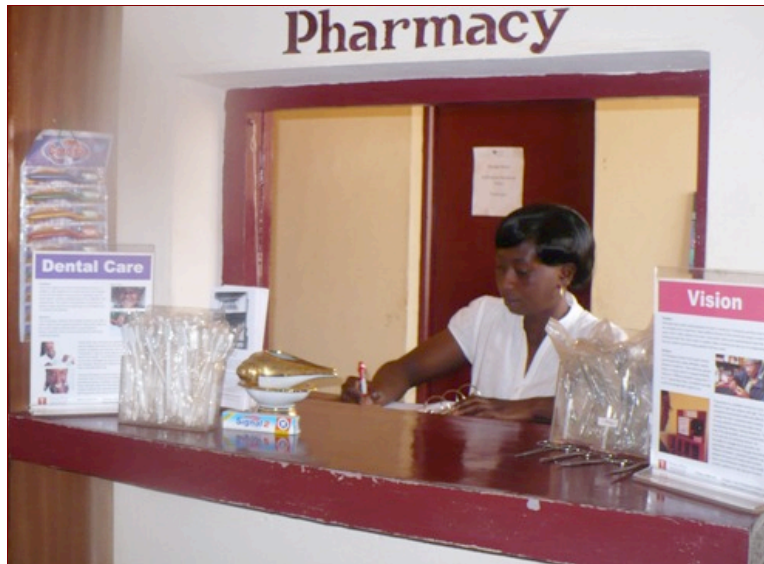
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Program Stories From Our Blog

Total Health Center

The Total Health Center has convinced patients of the power behind holistic and preventative healthcare.



2010 Recap

- **Strategic Shift**
 - Condensed operations from 3 health centers to 1 center and 1 mobile unit. This was the outcome of a decision to strengthen our foundation and offer better quality over quantity.
- **Yoga**
 - Weekly Yoga Classes have started
- **Herbal laboratory now producing medicine**
 - By establishing our very own production facility, we have decreased product cost and increased local sustainability.
 - Over 10 products are now being produced in our lab, using the herbs which our Energy Farming program has grown.
- **Wholeselling**
 - Opened up wholesale channels to consultants throughout Cameroon
 - Products include those which our laboratory produces.
- **Bio-Feedback project**
 - Piloted a Bio-Feedback program

Energy Farming

Promoting organic agriculture, land management skills and crop diversification to provide rural farmers with a sustainable livelihood.



2010 Recap

- **Outgrower partnership begun in two villages.**
- At the community center in Tobin and agricultural land in Kishong, seminars and workshops were held to instruct local farmers in composting, micro-rainwater harvesting, crop diversification, organic pesticides, and intercropping.
- Open Laboratory
- **Tractor rental Program increased farmer productivity**
 - Our tractor rental program made modern equipment available to several villages.

School of Carpentry and Construction

A service and production center that offers vocational training in advanced woodworking techniques.



2010 Recap

- Created internship opportunities for local carpenters
- Furniture production continued to grow in quantity and quality

Water Projects

Water is a vital resource for any community. Knowing this, the Himalayan Institute Cameroon will continue to implement water projects in communities that need them most.



2010 Recap

- Completed two water projects, 1 in Kishong Village and another in Jakiri

Public Library

Serving hundreds of thousands, it is the largest public library in the region.

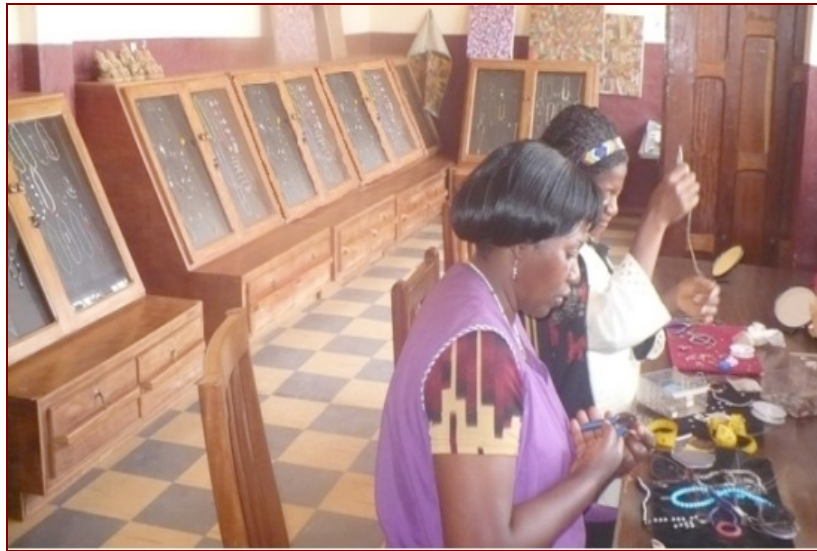


2010 Recap

- Launched new aspect of the library such as
 - Children's Corner
 - Cinema and Media Library

Sacred Link Jewelry

Empowering women by providing technical training, business skills and market linkage.



2010 Recap

- Continued to train and graduate women interested in self employment.

School of Carpentry & Construction Builds a Name for Itself

February 22, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

It's been 10 months since the Himalayan Institute Cameroon School of Carpentry & Construction opened its doors in Kumbo, and since then it has created many opportunities for the community. Each project that the school undertakes is designed to target local needs in the community and is proving to benefit the carpentry industry in NW Cameroon.



Training programs, Workshops and Internships

Many classes have taking place since the school opened, most notable in 2009 were two 10-week training programs titled "Modern Carpentry Methods." The first training was delivered to local carpenters who were looking for advanced training. The second training was for a group of technical teachers sent to the School by the local government trade school. These teachers not only learned how to improve their approach to carpentry but, more importantly, attention was given to help develop teaching skills.



Program Consultant Marten Nyar demonstrates the use of the radial arm saw to a large group of technical school students.

Cement Block and Seasoned Lumber Enterprise

In Kumbo, the majority of homes are built from cement blocks in wooden frames. Some builders cut costs by using less cement in their blocks and by using untreated lumber. The result is that the blocks crumble and the untreated boards warp.

To address this problem, the School of Carpentry & Construction set out to provide the community with high quality, dependable building materials. By taking time to dry and treat their lumber and by ensuring the proper proportions of cement and sand in their cement blocks, this new enterprise now makes these materials available to the community at all times. This effort is already improving the durability and safety of building projects throughout Kumbo.



When lumber is properly stacked and dried it becomes stronger, more durable, and less susceptible to warping.

Contracted Services Unit

This service program was developed to give the School's trained students and staff an opportunity to use their skills on private contracted projects in the community.



The School was hired by the local government to build furniture for the new council building. After the project was finished, students, staff and HIC General Manager Bannyuy Justine posed for a picture with the mayor of Kumbo.



The School also performed all of the renovations on the Institute's Kumbo Public Library.



Most recently, the School was asked to build the casket for the Archbishop of Bamenda, who passed away last month. This was a huge honor for the students and teachers of the School.



Custom Woodwork Trainings and Enterprise

Almost every training program has been geared toward improving quality and increasing the efficiency of the carpentry trade. In the city of Kumbo there are over 200 carpenters, most of whom have been able to use this knowledge to add value to their own businesses. The students and staff of the School have also created their own micro-business making refined furniture available to buyers either from custom orders or from a standard line of affordable, durable and beautiful furniture and products.



Most of the furniture at the shop is made from eucalyptus wood. Eucalyptus has a high moisture content, so if not properly dried, it will warp and ruin furniture. But thanks to the School's wood drying program, the furniture is turning out wonderfully!



Locals often are amazed with the result. "This is Eucalyptus?!?" they ask.

Specialty Woodworking Service Program

After students are trained and pass a certain level of certification in modern shop operations, they are then authorized to open the shop and machines up to the community as a service program. This Specialty Woodworking Service Program allows local carpenters to have access to all of the tools. Through this program, carpenters will now be able to bring in boards to be cut, sanded, and finished by trained Carpentry & Construction Technicians.



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Kumbo Public Library Tests Its Operations

March 8, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

Last week marked an important milestone for the Kumbo Public Library, a joint effort of the Himalayan Institute and the Honesdale Rotary Club, which has been in progress for over two years. The doors were opened to a select group of local Kumbo residents and HIC staff families in order to test operations before a grand public opening in early April.

Despite a major electricity shortage in the NW Region of Cameroon over the past 6 months, progress was not deterred and, finally, the finishing touches have been put in place.



The School of Carpentry & Construction custom designed and built all of the furniture for the library.



Low shelves have been installed in the Children's Corner to house kids' books, games and puzzles.



The library currently includes over 25,000 volumes, with more on the way this spring.

Following the soft opening, invitations will be sent to universities, schools, and social groups informing them of the library's public opening in April. The grand opening event will include tours, refreshments, children's games, and speeches, and will mark the first public announcement of the Institute's plan to further its educational initiatives in Cameroon.



"This library and its programs will soon be a main focus of this community center and, with time, will make a huge impact here in Kumbo," says Vivian Lukong, the head librarian.

Future activities will include basic literacy classes, youth leadership programs, and scholarship opportunities.

[Join Us in Africa! 2010 Eco-Service Excursion to Africa](#)

May 10, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)



Imagine yourself on an adventure like no other. You have just stepped into the palace courtyard of the Paramount Fon (King) of the Nso Kingdom in Kumbo, Cameroon. As the Fon enters, local titleholders

and palace visitors bend low, clap three times and blow into their hands, greeting him respectfully. They then turn to greet you, the special visitors for the day. After welcoming speeches, a traditional band and dance group of jujus—masked spirit channelers—put on a leaping, stomping, energetic performance. The lead juju hands his staff to you and you suddenly find yourself caught up in joyous singing and dancing, surrounded by brightly decorated men and women. As simply as that, you have experienced Wikijun—the spirit of “Welcome!” in Kumbo.



Now imagine this: A few days later you have reunited with the Fon, this time on a windy, rolling green hill in Kishong Village, on land that the Fon and his people helped secure for the Himalayan Institute

Cameroon School of Energy Farming. Today is the dedication of a permanent well that will provide irrigation for medicinal and oil seed crop cultivation as well as serve the village people with clean and reliable water during the six months of the dry season when water is desperately scarce. The people of Kishong have gathered to help celebrate. You realize for the first time how the simple gift of water can profoundly change the quality of someone's life.



Visitors with the 2008 Help Africa Move Forward Conference enjoyed a warm welcome from a women's group in Kishong Village.



Groundbreaking of Himalayan Institute Cameroon land in Kishong Village during 2008 Help Africa Move Forward Conference. The land is used for growing medicinal herbs, trees, oil seed crops, and for hosting educational outreach events. This year during the excursion we will be inaugurating a newly constructed well.

This October 31 to November 16, journey with [Pandit Rajmani Tigunait](#), Spiritual Head of the Himalayan Institute, to the Himalayan Institute's flagship community center in Kumbo, Cameroon. This is your opportunity to witness a variety of rural empowerment projects in action and see just how the Himalayan Institute—and you—are [helping Africa move forward](#).

Connect with fellow conference participants from around the world and immerse yourself in the full community center experience—volunteer opportunities will allow you to work hand in hand with our local team and beneficiaries on Energy Farming projects, the Total Health Centers, School of Carpentry and Construction, Sacred Link Jewelry, Kumbo Public Library and other projects that are improving the quality of life in Cameroon.

Throughout your stay in Kumbo, Pandit Tigunait will conduct a seminar on [Spirituality in Action](#), sharing how we can bridge personal and social transformation in our own lives and across the globe. The conference will enable you to weave together a first-hand glimpse of life in rural

Cameroon, an understanding of the kind of cross-cultural solutions that give local people what they need to change their own lives, and the inner experience that is the sacred link throughout humanity.



Pandit Rajmani Tigunait addresses the crowd at a public event during the 2008 excursion.

Participants in the 2008 Help Africa Move Forward Conference returned transformed and inspired by their experience. The images below provide only a small picture of the rich, joyful experience of the conference.





Conference members greeting the Fon, the local ruler.



During a special public event, the Himalayan Institute presented a local NGO, the Milano Kumbo Sports Academy, with a new collection of exercise machines, balls and sports equipment, and uniforms. Milano Kumbo was founded by a resident of Kumbo to provide youth with a healthy alternative to violence and crime.





A tree planting project with the School of Energy Farming.

On this year's excursion Pandit Rajmani Tigunait will share how to empower yourself to use this eco-service experience as a catalyst in your journey of self-transformation, and how you can inspire others. Other highlights include:

- Volunteer opportunities in our humanitarian projects throughout the region.
- Official inauguration of the Kumbo Public Library, which is the largest public library in the entire North West Region of Cameroon.
- Public opening of two newly constructed wells, which will provide water for irrigation and public use.
- A visit with the Fon in his palace.
- Exploration of Korup National Park—one of Africa's oldest and richest rainforests.
- A chance to stay and relax on a the volcanic black sand beach in Limbe.
- Much more! [View the Full Itinerary](#)

Also enjoy local sites and experiences, like a visit to the bustling market in Mbveh, a "football" game in the local stadium, and a sampling of the local treats fufu corn and njama-njama. Share a hatha

yoga class with local youth and sip chai on the community center balcony, while unwinding with fellow conference participants.

If you are interested in attending or would like more information:

- Call 1-800-822-4547, and press 2
- Email Marge Watkins at mwatkins@himalayaninstitute.org
- Visit <http://www.himalayaninstitute.org/humanitarian/hamfexcursion/>

We hope to see you in Kumbo!



Kumbo Kids Korner

May 28, 2010 by [Himalayan Institute Humanitarian Team](#) | [Edit](#)

In a community where books are scarce and children are starving for knowledge, HI Cameroon Public Library hosts an afterschool "Kids Korner". Every Monday and Thursday kids come together to participate

in reading lessons, group story telling, written lessons, creative thinking exercises, games and of course... tons of fun.



Yesterday's class included program leader Ntani Divine and 9-month-old Shanti Foloven, the newest member of the Himalayan Institute Cameroon. Ntani reported that yesterday's class was more energetic than normal due to the excitement of the upcoming holiday weekend, and not to mention the presence of a DIGITAL CAMERA, which was new to many of the children.



Using tactful disciplinary skills and a great amount of patience, Ntani can usually guide the class through several full stories before breaking up into smaller groups for an hour of activity.



Through your generous donations we have collected many children's books and games for the Kids Korner. This year we will be bringing a donated DVD player and many educational DVD's to enhance the libraries programs. The library is still in need of a projector to display the DVD's so we are able to impact a greater number of children's lives. If you are interested in helping please email us at: info@hicameroon.org



Total Health Workshop for Women

June 22, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

250 women came from several nearby villages to attend a workshop, hosted by HI Cameroon's Total Health Center, which focused on hygiene and sanitation awareness and how to improve health in homes and villages.



Eucharia Kouh, Total Health Program Leader, presented a holistic approach to addressing hygiene and the common problems caused by sanitary concerns. In addition, she discussed the Total Health Center products, services and consultations that use Ayurvedic herbs, homeopathy, yoga, breathing practices, relaxation techniques, and diet and nutrition education. Topics included:

- Proper hygiene, sanitation, and waste management

- Freedom from depression (using alternate nostril breathing and meditation – learning to focus your mind on your breath, NOT your problems)
- Freedom from stress (using systematic relaxation and proper sleep)
- Freedom from allergies, Catar and Sinus infections (using Nasal cleansing)
- Freedom from obesity, and diet related problems – Basic diet and nutrition
- Proper hand washing techniques
- Proper teeth brushing techniques
- Introduction to first aid
- Basic joints and glands exercises for increased circulation and mobility
- Remedies for the common cold and flu



These outreach efforts help to break through the stigmas that many women have about visiting health centers to seek guidance. Since hospitals are expensive, many village people wait until it's an emergency before seeking treatment, at which point it's often too late. For this reason, hospitals have become associated with death and disease, instead of healing and prevention. HI Cameroon is working to reverse this trend, by providing greater access to affordable medicine and more education about disease prevention.

Energy Farming for a Healthier Africa

July 27, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

The HI Cameroon Energy Farming campus in Kishong village is supporting the Total Health program with new ingredients for medicinal formulations. Most recently, Energy Farming Program Leader Lilian Gupie organized a harvest of calendula flowers.



A handful of fresh picked calendula flowers.

Back at the Community Center in Kumbo the flowers will be dried and processed. They can then be combined with locally available organic oils to create an ointment that alleviates burns, bites, abrasions and other skin conditions.

On the other side of the Kishong farm, the first two hives of a new apiary have already been colonized. The apiary was established to

demonstrate an effective pollination technique, Lilian explains, but in the meantime the hives will produce honey and beeswax, which are effective bases for Total Health oral medicines and ointments, respectively. In the coming months, as the scale of cultivation in Kishong increases, more Total Health products will be produced locally, putting preventative healthcare firmly in the hands of Cameroonians.



Bee hives are kept cool with long grass cuttings.

In addition to herbal plots filled with brahmi, ashwagandha, calendula, turmeric, and ginger, there are plots devoted to the two crops with which every farmer in Cameroon is intimately familiar: corn and beans. Such is the prevailing mindset that many farmers refuse to even attempt organic farming, believing that it is impossible to grow these food staples without expensive chemical fertilizers.

Demonstration plots like these are the kind of concrete proof needed to break generations-old habits and encourage a new paradigm of commercially viable, wholly sustainable agriculture.



Fields of organic corn and beans at the HI Cameroon Energy Farming campus in Kishong village.

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Kumbo Public Library

July 19, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

Thanks to word-of-mouth advertising by a group of avid readers, the Kumbo Public Library has become a cultural focus of the surrounding community, especially among school-age children.



High school seniors take advantage of the library's resources to prepare for final exams. Given its location, it was only a matter of time before secondary school students started taking advantage of the library. Each day, hundreds of students walk past the Himalayan Institute Community Center on their way to and from class at the government bilingual high school just a few hundred yards down the road. The library has proved an ideal space to study for year end examinations.



Twice a week, the Himalayan Institute invites primary school-age children into the library for lessons in reading, arithmetic, and hygiene. During the summer months, parents spend more time in the fields — tilling, planting and harvesting food crops on small family plots. Young children are often left unsupervised in neighborhoods with high unemployment and a teenage population on holiday from secondary school. The biweekly “Children’s Corner” provides a safe, clean environment where children can continue to play and learn.



The child-size stools and table were designed and crafted next door in the HI Center for Carpentry and Construction.

Glance through the pages of the library's guestbook and its impact on the community quickly becomes apparent. "The first of its kind in all the Northwest Region," says one entry. "This is a gift to the people of Kumbo. I will be here every day," says another. A thank you note from a local stenographer ends with the words, "I want you to know that this is more than a blessing."

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[Energy Farming Tiller Service Program Comes to Wasi Village](#)

July 13, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

The Himalayan Institute Cameroon is bringing modern agriculture to rural villages with its power tiller service program.

Miles from the nearest paved road, amid the grass fields of the Mbar Mountain basin, lies unassuming Wasi village. Throughout most of the year, the market square remains quiet. Subsistence farming predominates and families struggle to send their children to distant boarding houses where they can attend school. But for two months a year unemployment gives way to a frenzy of hard labor. In late June the plains flood and turn fallow fields into wetlands ideal for rice cultivation. Villagers work night and day with small hand hoes, raking at the wet soil to form rice paddies. The demand for rice is high in Cameroon, and most of the income for the whole year must be earned from the brief rice season.



The Himalayan Institute's power tiller in action. Behind, farmers transplant rice into a newly tilled paddy.

There's always more work than can be done by hand. Giving a tour of his homeland, a Ministry official sighs wistfully as he spreads his arms to indicate the scope of the flooding. "This is God's gift, but we are helpless to use it," he says.

Then the Himalayan Institute stepped in. In 2009, as part of its mission to bring modern, ecologically responsible farming to the developing world, the Himalayan Institute imported several state-of-

the-art agricultural machines. Included in the shipment was the power tiller now being put to good use in Wasi.

The tiller is self-propelled, with a 14 horsepower diesel engine, and can be fitted with various components to suit the environment. In the wetlands of Wasi, a pair of iron tires enables the tiller to accomplish in under two hours what would take over thirty by hand, preparing a standard plot for rice transplantation.



A rice nursery in Wasi

While most of the farmers in Wasi are familiar with this kind of technology, few have been able to take advantage of it. The demand for mechanized farm equipment is so high that unscrupulous renters are able to pit farmer groups against one another in blind auctions, driving up prices until it becomes impossible to earn a living with the machinery. The Himalayan Institute leases equipment for the cost of fuel and maintenance, fostering a sustainable industry for communities like Wasi.



The Monoun Rice Farmers' Union

At a meeting with the Monoun Rice Farmers' Union, the solemn atmosphere broke into wild cheers when a representative of the Himalayan Institute Cameroon announced that there were two more power tillers available for service rental. To the families of Wasi village, the opportunity can't come soon enough.



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[Eco-Service Excursion to Cameroon, Africa](#)

July 8, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

October 31-November 16, 2010

There's still time to register for the 2010 Eco-Service Excursion to Africa with Pandit Rajmani Tigunait, Ph.D. These highlights of the 2008 Help Africa Move Forward excursion are a glimpse of what you can experience when you register to join us.

Photo Album: Help Africa Move Forward 2008



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Posted in [Cameroon](#), [Excursions](#) | [Leave a Comment »](#)

Mark your calendar!

July 5, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

Join us for an **Eco-Service Excursion to Cameroon, West Africa, October 31 – November 16, 2010**, and discover how to put spirituality into practice.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to be in the company of [Pandit Rajmani Tigunait](#), Spiritual Head of the Himalayan Institute, and discover how to use this experience as a catalyst for self-transformation.

Highlights of our journey:

- Planting and processing of medicinal crops in Kishong village
- Interact and volunteer with local children at the largest public library in the region
- Exploration of the lush rainforests of Korup National Park
- A celebration with jujus (masked performers) and meeting the Fon (traditional King)
- Volunteer opportunities to help with our Total Health Mobile Unit, delivering preventative healthcare to isolated rural communities
- Inauguration of a public well in Jakiri village to provide a source for clean water
- A community soccer match sponsored by the Himalayan Institute Community Center where you'll enjoy local entertainment
- Relaxing with like-minded spiritual seekers on the black sand beach of Limbe

Space is limited. For more information, [click here](#).



About Cameroon

Often described as Africa-in-miniature, Cameroon boasts each of the Continent's major climatic zones, as well as over 250 distinct ethnic groups, each with its own language, customs and spiritual practices. Located on the coast of West Africa, the nation has a size and population similar to the state of California. Cameroon enjoys a greater stability and relatively low HIV/AIDS rate than much of sub-Saharan Africa, though poverty and preventable health conditions challenge millions of Cameroonians each day. The [Himalayan Institute](#)

[Community Center](#) in Kumbo addresses these needs and provides sources of sustainable income and healthcare.

REGISTRATION CLOSES AUGUST 15!

August 2, 2010 by [Himalayan Institute Humanitarian Team](#) | [Edit](#)

Eco-Service Excursion to Cameroon, Africa

October 31-November 16, 2010



The registration deadline is approaching for the 2010 Eco-Service Excursion to Africa and only a few spaces are left. Don't miss this rare opportunity to travel in Africa with Pandit Rajmani Tigunait, and learn how to use this eco-service excursion as a catalyst for personal and global transformation. Celebrate the inauguration of a public well, explore the diversity of Korup National Park's pristine rainforest, and put spirituality into action as you volunteer with our humanitarian projects in preventative healthcare, sustainable agriculture, and education.

Registrations received after August 15 are accepted only on a space-available basis. Additional fees apply for late registrations and space

cannot be guaranteed. For more information, or to register, click [here](#). Act now!

From Plants to Pills

October 4, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

The Total Health Center in Kumbo, Cameroon now creates its own high quality herbal medicine in pill form. Thanks to the new encapsulating machine, herbs grown locally by the Energy Farming program can be turned into standardized pills. This new technology will help to make the delivery of the medicine easier on the patients and the health consultants. Taking a pill once or twice a day is more convenient than having to measure out a particular quantity of loose herb and also helps to make the dosing more precise.



Head Total Health Consultant Eucharia fills capsules as Energy Farming Program Leader Lilian looks on.



The machine helps to ensure that every capsule has the same amount of herb powder.





The finished pills are bottled for sale in the Total Health Centers.

This is a very exciting step towards local self-sufficiency for the Total Health program!

Read more on cultivating herbal medicine in Cameroon [here](#).

Solar Wood Drying Kiln

December 8, 2010 by [JohnD](#) | [Edit](#)

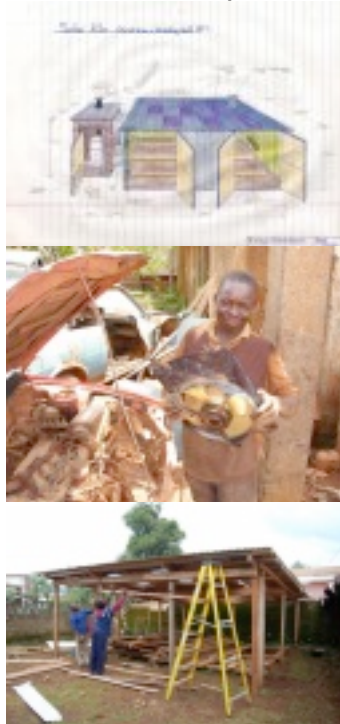
The Himalayan Institute Cameroon's School of Carpentry & Construction has finished building a new wood drying kiln. A wood kiln is an enclosed structure where heat and moisture are controlled in order to dry wood as fast as possible with the least amount of drying defects such as warping and cracking. This is the first wood drying kiln

in Kumbo and will make a huge difference for the carpentry trade in the area.

In the past, carpenters from Kumbo have often been unable to afford properly dried wood, which is imported from the large city of Bamenda, located three hours away. The result is that many carpenters must work with uncured wood, which warps after a few months. Having dried wood locally available will make lumber more affordable and will improve the overall quality of carpentry projects in the region.

Fiberglass panels in the roof allow sunlight to passively heat the kiln interior. By utilizing solar thermal heating, the kiln can operate at a fraction of the cost of traditional kilns. A heavy-duty fan for moving air and controlling humidity was fashioned from the fan of an old Toyota truck—a great example of how a little ingenuity can create local solutions for local problems!

Check out pictures of the construction process:







More details about the kiln:

- Local wood facts
 - Rough cut boards randomly stacked take two years to dry.
 - Rough cut boards properly stacked and covered take 6 months to dry.
 - Rough cut boards properly stacked in our new solar kiln are estimated to take 3 months to dry.
 - Normally, unseasoned wood harvested around Kumbo is sold to Bamenda, where it is dried, then sold back to Kumbo to those people who can afford seasoned wood.
 - Local carpenters are compelled to make furniture from green wood, thus furniture cracks and falls apart only a few months later. Despite the great deal of time and effort put into local projects, carpenters do not take much pride in their work and cannot make an adequate profit from their furniture since people will not pay much for short lived products.

- What are the specs for our kiln?
 - 20 ft wide by 19 ft deep by 6.5 ft tall.
 - Capacity is around 1000 planks (or 1500 board feet in lumber trade talk).
 - We used locally available parts to construct the kiln:
 - The kiln's circulation fans were salvaged from Toyota cars.
 - The kiln has a car battery backup power source in case of power failures.
 - The main structure was built with locally available building supplies. Eg. Metal sheets and Cyprus boards.
 - Kiln has a digital control panel with a built in hygrometer and thermometer to monitor humidity and temperature inside the kiln and record the highs and lows for the day.
- Why build and use a wood kiln in Kumbo?
 - Increases the value of the wood. Seasoned wood fetches a higher price.
 - Seasoned wood makes long lasting furniture.
 - Seasoned wood allows a better finish to be applied.
 - Carpenters take more pride in their furniture since it will last and will be higher quality.
 - Carpenters make more profit since they can sell their furniture for a higher price.
- What service does the wood kiln provide to HI Cameroon and the community?
 - The School of Carpentry & Construction has a consistent supply of well seasoned wood to build its world class furniture.
 - The seasoned wood is available for local carpenters to buy at a modest price, which generates income for HI Cameroon.
 - Increases pride in the community.

- Carpenters can make more elaborate projects knowing they will last.
- The community can see that progress isn't leaving them behind.
- The kiln is built in a simple way so that local enterprises can envision building their own kilns.
- What is the future for the wood kiln?
 - Data will be collected to create the most efficient drying schedule for local woods. This knowledge can be passed on to the community.
 - An innovative sawdust burner has been envisioned as an upgrade for the future to augment rainy season drying times.
 - The kiln will also double as an herb dryer for our Total Health Center medicines.

HIC Spotlight: Divine Ntani

December 28, 2010 by [ajmasters](#) | [Edit](#)

In the midst of the Himalayan Institute Cameroon's major humanitarian initiatives, the remarkable stories of those responsible often go unreported. This section of the blog seeks to showcase the diverse range of backgrounds, talents, obstacles, and triumphs represented in our local staff and contacts.

Divine Ntani is one of the key people who make the Himalayan Institute Cameroon run. Since 2006, Divine has been a core staff member, working as training coordinator and program manager, and currently serving as the public relations director and marketing manager. For many community members in Kumbo and the outlying villages, Divine is the smiling face of HI Cameroon, traveling around to bring the center's services and products to the people who need them.



Divine speaks at the grand opening of the Total Health Center in Jakiri.

Before being introduced to HI Cameroon by another staff member, Eric Wirba, Divine worked for an NGO in the large city of Yaoundé called Education for Work and Life as the Assistant Development Manager. After many years away to attend university and work, Divine returned to his hometown of Kumbo because, he says, "I was inspired by the HI vision of empowering people instead of giving a handout."



Divine (right) with colleague and friend Eric Wirba (left).

Divine and his wife Fadimatu—and the entire HI family!—are looking forward to welcoming their first baby, due in February 2011. In addition to spending time with his growing family, Divine enjoys playing soccer, listening to music and watching the news. When asked what he enjoys most about working at HI Cameroon, Divine broke into a smile. “I enjoy everything about HIC because I live and breathe HIC. The hands-on experience has made me so flexible, something I couldn’t have learned anywhere else. I’m not stagnant, I can do many things at a time.”



Divine with his wife, Fadimatu.

As he put it, "The HIC has a continuing bright future in changing people's lives through its programs." With people like Divine Ntani on the job, HI Cameroon will continue to make a positive impact for the people of Cameroon.