

Federal Minister Dirk Niebel visits atmosfair Partner Pro Climate International

For the first time in his term, Dirk Niebel, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, traveled to Cameroon. It was the first visit of a German minister in this West African state in 25 years!

On the 29th of October, 2012, the Minister visited the university town of Buea at the foot of Mount Cameroon, to learn about problems and solutions to protect the rainforest. He, as well as the traveling delegation, met the atmosfair partner organization Pro Climate International. As part of atmosfair's project, Pro Climate International sells efficient firewood cookstoves at heavily subsidized prices- reduced fuel wood consumption reduces pressure on remaining rainforests.

Pro Climate International leader Jean Claude Tsafack took the minister and his delegation on a tour through the species-rich forests in Mount Cameroon National Park, at the foot of the highest mountain in West Africa. As Pro Climate International has also made a name for itself as a provider of eco-tours, the German visitors were in good hands here. The group hike led the group from the small village of Bokwango to a mysterious bat grotto in the depths of the Cameroonian rainforest. After an hour's walk, the group reached a small clearing. Under the impressive sound of an African rainforest, Jean Claude and his team presented the organization Pro Climate International and their work.



At the foot of Mount Cameroon, atmosfair project partner Jean Claude (far left) and his team report on the organization Pro Climate International and its work on the protection of the climate and rainforest - including the proliferation of efficient firewood cookstoves.

They also presented the joint climate protection project with atmosfair and its importance for

the protection of rainforests and biodiversity. "The German Federal Government, along with many other organizations and private donors, has made an important contribution to this climate protection project by offsetting its flights with atmosfair. We hope that this support for the people and nature in this region will continue, "says Jean Claude Tsafack.



Federal Minister Dirk Niebel and atmosfair project partner Jean Claude Tsafack on their joint tour of the forests of Mount Cameroon National Park.



Jean Claude and Weltwärts Volunteer Lea in action! Presentation of the cooperation with atmosfair and the joint climate protection project.

For more than two years, atmosfair and Pro Climate International have been cooperating in a climate protection project in the country's South West and Littoral regions. By using efficient firewood cookstoves, the project reduces the wood consumption of private households. A cookstove saves around 60% of wood compared to traditional fireplaces, reducing the ongoing destruction of rainforest and mangrove forests in the area. Furthermore, users save money and time previously needed to purchase and collect firewood. The cookstove also brings benefits to users' health by reducing harmful smoke and preventing illness. Over the last 6 months, more than 3,000 efficient firewood stoves have been sold - with support from atmosfair at less than 50% of the unsubsidized price. The demand is not abating and the waiting list for the new cookers is already well filled. The second sales phase will start at the beginning of 2013. Then Jean Claude and his team will be back on a daily basis and sell another 3,000 cookers in the cities of Buea, Limbe and Douala.



Satisfied users of the new firewood cook preparing the lunch

Over a period of 10 years, the project saves up to 10,000 tons of CO₂ every year; certified by the Gold Standard. Due to the positive development of the project and the high demand, atmosfair and Pro Climate International are already planning the possible expansion of the project.

More information about the project at:

https://www.atmosfair.de/en/climate-protection-projects/energy_efficiency/cameroon/

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