

Press Release



Bees for Development

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***Bees for Development* helps African beekeepers to trade their way out of poverty**

First Minister, Carwyn Jones, last week visited *Bees for Development's* Cameroon Honey Trade Project underway in partnership with the Welsh company Tropical Forest Products Ltd.

Bees for Development is an international development organisation based in Monmouth working to help African beekeepers trade their way out of poverty through selling honey and beeswax.

The Welsh Assembly Government Wales for Africa Grant Scheme is funding *Bees for Development* to work with Tropical Forest Products Ltd in this Project that aims to produce a Welsh-designed honeycomb separator that will assist Cameroonian beekeepers to improve the quality and yield of their honey and beeswax. Michael Tchana, the Director of the Cameroonian organisation Guiding Hope, visited Wales in March to work on the honeycomb separator, with the aim of increasing honey and beeswax exports to Wales in the forthcoming months.

The products will be sold through Tropical Forest Products Ltd., Wales' only registered Fairtrade importer. The Project outcomes will be shared widely with other beekeepers in Africa and Wales through the information network of *Bees for Development*.

With the UK producing less than one third of the honey we eat, honey trade presents a real economic opportunity for people in developing countries endowed with natural resources, but with limited financial capital. Bee diseases are highly prevalent in industrialised countries and most beeswax produced is contaminated with the chemical residues of bee medications. African beekeepers have a strong comparative advantage, as they are custodians of the largest remaining wild honeybee populations in the world, thriving free from introduced pests and diseases.

Notes for Editors:

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Please use accompanying images or request higher resolution images from info@beesfordevelopment.org

Bees for Development Trust is the Charity that works to alleviate poverty in the developing world through the promotion of sustainable beekeeping. The Trust achieves this by:

- Working to raise the profile of beekeeping, with emphasis on the alleviation of poverty, building of community resilience, and encouragement of a wider sustainable economy.
- Utilising indigenous bees wherever possible. This maintains an important resource of healthy bee populations.
- Providing training for local trainers to further support community beekeeping development activities.
- Answering enquiries from individual beekeepers, honey packers, government institutions, NGOs and beekeeping organisations worldwide.
- Encouraging sustainable beekeeping through good examples from the developing world.

More information at: www.beesfordevelopment.org or phone Dr Nicola Bradbear on 01600 713648

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Pictures that may be used © Bees for Development:



Michael Tchana of Guiding Hope, Cameroon with the beeswax separator.



African beeswax, purified in Wales: a high value natural product