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# Biodiversity and Forestry Programme

We support the restoration of nature for the benefit of people!

Issue #3 May/June 2017



Zena BFP is a free information bulletin about BFP activities



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Celebration

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of equipment for materials  
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# Biodiversity and Forestry Programme



## Project description

**Title:** Biodiversity and Forestry Programme

**Commissioned by:** German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

**Lead executing agency:** GIZ, KfW Development Bank

**Duration:** 2015 to 2019

## BFP works in four components or action fields:

- Strengthening the national parks strategy
- Integration of biosphere reserves and Forest Priority Areas into national system of protected areas
- Forest management and setting-up of forest sector
- Improving the coordination and knowledge management for the management of biodiversity

## Expected impacts

- Improvement of law enforcement in protected areas and forests, to prevent or control anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity.
- Management plans in place to ensure protection and management of protected areas and forests according to international standards.
- Forest coverage increase in the selected areas
- Local populations see positive economic effects from conservation through sustainable resource management and local economic development.
- Institutional and human capacities of public authorities are strengthened.
- A management structure is built at regional level to run the existing biosphere reserves.
- Reforms to improve protected area management are implemented



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[www.giz.de/ethiopia](http://www.giz.de/ethiopia)

Responsible: Ueli Mueller  
Editing: Karin Allgoewer  
Design/layout: Muse Zerihun  
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*“Without a healthy environment we cannot end poverty or build prosperity. We all have a role to play in protecting our only home: we can use less plastics, drive less, waste less food and teach each other to care.”*

*UN Secretary-General, António Guterres*

## World Environment Day Celebration

‘Connecting People to Nature’ is the theme for World Environment Day 2017 by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The World Environment Day is the biggest annual event for positive environmental action which takes place every 5th of June.

World Environmental Day was celebrated this year for 24th time in Ethiopia. The official event, organized by the Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Climate Change, has taken place in Mekdela woreda, in South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region. The Minister of Forestry, Environment and Climate Change, His Excellence Doctor Gemedo Dalle has been present and has led the celebration.

**World Environmental Day was celebrated this year for 24th time in Ethiopia. The official event, organized by the Ministry of Forestry, Environment and Climate Change, has taken place in Mekdela woreda, in South Wollo Zone, Amhara Region.**

The program of the event included the visit to selected watersheds, where woreda representatives have explained about their activities in relation to area closures, hillside and bench terraces, and irrigation dams. These physical structures have been integrated with biological measures of planting fodder, fruit and tree species. Landless youngsters are organized to benefit from the rehabilitated areas by activities like small scale irrigation, apiculture, fruit and vegetable development.

After the speeches, MECC has awarded 22 computers to the woreda in recognition for their work in the field of sustainable development. GIZ-BFP was represented by the Amhara regional advisor and the contribution of the program to the event has been recognized in the plenary.

### Contribution:

**Dagnachew Alemayehu, Amhara regional advisor**



Tree planting activity celebrating Environment Day in Arba MInch, SNNPR

# News

## Handover of equipment to partners

**W**ildlife monitoring in protected areas is not possible without the use of the adequate equipment. Measurement of trees for a proper plantation management is also not possible without proper tools.

Therefore, as part of its support to partner institutions, the Biodiversity and Forestry Programme (BFP) has purchased and handed over office and field equipment, including 30 motorbikes, 85 laptops and field materials and tools, like binoculars, GPS, camping equipment and dendrometric materials. The handing over was preceded by training courses for the responsible technical staff.

### Contribution:

Mesfin Anbesse, Forestry Expert - Suba Sebeta

### The Biodiversity and Forestry Programme (BFP) has purchased and handed over office and field equipment, including 30 motorbikes, 85 laptops

The institutions that have benefited by the field equipment were MoFECC, EWCA, Amhara Forest Enterprise (AFE), Oromia Forest and Wildlife Authority (OFWE), Tigray Regional Bureau of Agriculture, Southern Nations Regional Environment and Forest Protection Authority, and the field staff from national parks, protected forests and biosphere reserves.

During the handover ceremony of motorbikes at Menagesha Suba National Priority Forest at the end of May, the manager of OFWE's Suba Sebeta District Ato Shimelis Telila has mentioned his appreciation to the support of GIZ-BFP and the previous GTZ program around 15 years ago for biodiversity conservation and development activities in the old Menagesha forest.



## Charcoal confiscation operation in Hallaydeghi Asebot proposed

### National Park

**T**ree-cutting and charcoal production inside the proposed national park is one of the main challenges that the park authorities face.

The park and woreda law enforcement group has organized an operation to stop the production of charcoal from wood that is cut inside the Asebot area of the park. The operation has lasted 5 days at the end of May.

As a result, 830 quintal of charcoal have been removed from the road side and from the park, 7 illegal charcoal collectors were sent to local police station for further legal measures, one truck for transporting charcoal and dry wood was captured and taken to police

station for legal measures, and 15 temporal settlement houses belonging to charcoal producers were dismantled. Besides, and as part of the action, 403 communities have received awareness education by the park and woreda team.

### 830 quintal of charcoal have been removed from the road side and from the park

BFP has supported the park staff, with equipment, logistics and has helped coordinating the operations as part of the general support to the park management.

BFP has supported the park management for the establishment of scouts at the new outpost at Asebot to strengthen the patrolling activities of the park, and a law enforcement committee at woreda level that is currently active in charcoal patrolling and controlling deforestation inside the park. The organized security force from woreda police, woreda security, scouts, Oromia special force, and command post under the leadership of Environmental Authority has requested court permission to dismantle charcoal vendor posts on the roadside. Scouts are doing their daily patrol with the help of the woreda logistics, which is also allocating financial resources for these activities.

### Contribution:

Gebeyaw Dilnesa, Conservation Expert - Hallaydeghi Asebot

## News

# Nursery management and propagation techniques training

A three-day practical training on nursery management, propagation techniques, and seedling market and value chain has been conducted from May 24th to 26th, 2017 in Suba-Sebeta Forest District, which is one of GIZ-BFP implementation sites. The training was coordinated together with Oromia Forest and Wildlife Enterprise (OFWE).

The training was held in the Menagesha Suba nursery, and it was especially designed for nursery managers. The increase in forest coverage is one of the main intended changes addressed by BFP in agreement with the partner institutions in its intervention sites. Therefore, reference nurseries are being supported in seven different places. In order to create a common approach for nursery management, eight BFP site experts took part in the training, as well as representatives from Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and Addis Ababa University (AAU).

The nursery training included six components and different specialized trainers:

1. General nursery establishment and management. Trainer: Seble Metafaria, Wondo Genet College for Forestry and Natural Resources
2. Value chain of forest seed and seedlings. Trainer: Sarah Assefa, Agriprofocus
3. Lowland and Highland Bamboo Propagation. Trainer: Abdunasir Bedri, African Bamboo
4. Apple-Mango grafting. Trainer: Derese Kochana, Konso Development Agency
5. Apple budding. Trainer: Gedion Pawlos, Khalehiwot Protestant Church
6. Clonal nursery establishment and clonal propagation. Trainer: Abubaker Mwima Ugandan Timber Growth Association

This training was organized by Dr Peter Borchardt, from Hamburg University, a consultant hired by BFP, following an assessment of all BFP site nurseries in order to identify training needs and fill the observed gaps.



**Contribution:**

Hiwot Workagegnehu, Forest field advisor



# News



## Training of scouts in Nech Sar National Park

**E**nforcing the law in national parks is one of the main responsibilities of the park rangers or scouts. This means, in the practice, to remove people who are performing illegal activities or extracting natural resources from the park. It also means to confiscate products that were obtained in the park, like fish or charcoal.

In order to strengthen the capacities of scouts and to introduce patrolling and anti-poaching techniques, BFP in collaboration with Nech Sar National Park, has organized a state-of-the-art law enforcement training. The 'Level 1' law enforcement training was conducted during 24 days, from April 25 to May 19, 2017 in Arba Minch. A total of 35 participants, among scouts and technical experts from Nech Sar and Chebera Churchura National Parks took part in the training, including two female scouts and one female park technical expert.

The trainer, an international consultant and anti-poaching expert, has organized most of the exercises directly in the bush, with some theoretical sections. Some of the topics included: code of ethics of scouts, different patrolling progression, formation, and situation analysis, moving around with guns, legal self-defense systems, communication with local communities, relationship to tourists, assessment of crime scene of dead wildlife, and any other crime issues in the park, preparation of patrolling report.

The training was finalized with a graduation and certification ceremony, that was attended by EWCA general director, representatives from judicial system, prosecutors, police, and military, Administration from Gamo Gofa zone and Arba minch Zuriya woreda.

As a first result of the training, Nech Sar National Park has developed a new patrolling system according to the new introduced methodologies.

### Nech Sar National Park has developed a new patrolling system



#### Contribution:

Dereje Abera, Nature Conservation Expert - Nech Sar N.P.

# Preparation of Management plan for Yayu Forest Coffee Biosphere Reserve

The development of a management plan to organize and implement activities inside the reserve to ensure its sustainability has become a necessity

Since its designation by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve in 2010, the Yayu Forest Coffee has not been managed as such, following a management plan. The management of the biosphere reserve is still in charge of different institutions. BFP is working with local stakeholders and national institutions in order to find out the appropriate management structure.

In the meantime, the development of a management plan to organize and implement activities inside the reserve to ensure its sustainability has become a necessity.

Based on this, PHE-EC and UNIQUE-NABU consortium, under contract of BFP, together with other relevant partners in the area have begun the process of a participatory management plan.

Twenty, out of 35 kebeles surrounding Yayu BR, have been selected as a sample. One community level planning team was established to start discussions with local communities and relevant sector officials.

The participatory management plan preparation at community level on the selected 20 sample kebeles has been completed after performing the following activities: identification of main threats to forest resources and their causes, identification of mitigation measures, and draft plan proposal for 10 years.

The methodologies followed for the identification of threats to the forest resources is transect walk in core, buffer and transition areas. The process of digitizing the figures is undergoing.

The next step of the management plan is the presentation of all findings to all kebeles surrounding Yayu BR and to sector officials at each woredas. The plan shall be then endorsed at zone level. The last step will be a forum at regional and federal level for its final approval. This management plan is expected to be a model for other biosphere reserves in the country.

**Contribution:**

Alemayehu Nigussie, Yayu BR Coordinator

## Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve

Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve was designated as such in 2010 by UNESCO. Located in Ilu Abba Bora Zone, in Oromia Region. It is the center of origin for the *Coffea Arabica* and it preserves the largest population of wild coffee in the world. The area plays also a key role in the conservation of natural and cultural landscapes.

BFP is supporting the regional authorities to establish a management body for Yayu Biosphere Reserve.

## Faces & stories

# More than four decades in forest development



Tafese Shakamo is the oldest staff member at the Environmental Protection and Forest office in SNNPR, where he has been working for over four decades. He is a source of knowledge and experience for the younger foresters.

Born and raised in SNNPR, he started to work as a forester by chance.

TS: My parents had no sufficient income to send me to school nor to feed me properly. I had to support myself by cutting and selling grass and making local furniture from wood logs. One day I was resting near the natural forest with my hand tools, when a group of forest experts working for the former Forest and Wildlife Authority who were coming from Arba Minch approached me. We exchanged greetings and they asked me what I was doing. They asked me if I needed to work. Just after that day I started to work with them. Currently I am assigned as team leader to control the overall operation of the nurseries in the area.

### How was this area before the plantation of the forest started?

Historically, the former provincial center was located in this area. After recurrent attacks by Italian forces during the occupation, 1936 – 1940, the area was abandoned and the village shifted to Gidole. Later, the Land for Peasants Proclamation of the Dergue Regime has given farmers ownership of the land, who have planted the forest in the farmlands as well as in deforested or degraded lands.

### Did you face any challenges in the plantation work?

The major problem we faced when we started our operation is the local community's negative attitude towards labor work and daily wages. As a result, we had to bring daily laborers from areas located far away. Afterwards, their attitude changed and started to get into work.

### What was the attitude of the local community towards the plantation forest development?

The forest has been protected by forest guards. One missionary, Mr Hauzen, who has been doing soil and water conservation here, always said that protecting forest with forest guards means wasting public money for nothing. Communities are living in and within forest and, as a result, they never understand the actual value of the forest. Even if the government does community awareness, most of the time forestry conservation activities are done by forced decision. As a result, community members were taking different destructive actions along the time.

### How do you fill now about this forest and its future?

I see this forest as my son. I do not want it to be affected in any way. However, since the forest becomes old like me, it has to be utilized in a way that it generates tangible economic impact to the area. The Woreda government is afraid of how to do reforestation or reestablishment of the forest after utilization. Will it be possible to keep this area for a new forest and avoid the expansion of agriculture? I also share this worry. I believe any utilization scheme should consider not only replacing existing plantation forest but also to planning and allocating enough budget for its expansion into shrub land and degraded areas.

Tafese has never studied forestry. He learned from other foresters and from the forest. He is a dedicated forester and conservationist.

### Contribution:

Meseret Ademasu, regional expert, SNNPR





# News

Over 52 separate forests with a total size of 6450ha (ranges from 2.5ha to 1800ha) in 16 woredas were delineated and inventoried.



## Plantation forest inventory in SNNPR

A plantation forest inventory was conducted in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region, Five zones (Segen Area Peoples, Gamo Gofa, Welayta, Sidama and Kafa Zones) were selected based on recurrent reports on the presence and status of plantation forest. The inventory will complement the national and regional ongoing forest inventory initiatives by FAO and REDD+.

The decision to start such inventory was taken after an assessment conducted by the Environment and Protected Forests Authority (EPFA) about the operational and institutional setup of the Oromia and Amhara forest enterprises. The experiences and lessons learned were analyzed and discussed and they will be

used by EPFA to create an appropriate institutional arrangement or setup in the SNNPR in order to enhance proper protection, integrated development, and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

The inventory was conducted on May, 2017 and the plantation covers more than 90 percent of the total plantation forest of the region. More than 25 forestry experts participated in the inventory. The teams are from respective zones and woredas environmental protection & forest offices; they are coordinated by the regional authority and Hawassa environment & forest research center. Over 52 separate forests with a total size of 6450 ha (ranges from 2.5ha to

1800ha) in 16 woredas were delineated and inventoried. GPS data entry, analysis and map creation is in progress.

The plantation forest inventory, besides collecting individual tree species and collecting qualitative and quantitative data on plantation forest cover of the region, has been a learning experience for those experts on forest inventory techniques.

BFP and EPFA in collaboration with Wendo Genet Forest and Natural Resource College provide refresher training on forest inventory and use of dendrometric tools provided by BFP. Technical and financial support for the process also provided by BFP

## Successful export of honey and coffee from Ethiopian biosphere reserves to Germany

**T**he DeveloPPP Strategic Alliance on the „Promotion of Sustainable Forest Products“ is celebrating a good start in 2017 in regard to the business relationships between producers from Kafa and Sheka Biosphere Reserves and the international private sector project partners. Both value chains (wild coffee and honey) are producing real outputs in terms of exports to the European Union. Honey production is high this year, especially in Kafa – honey quality is better and the amounts are rising. Tuchel & Sohn, the German importing company, has signed already two contracts with the Kafa Honey Union and is about to export 42 MT of honey. This is double compared to last year's results. Wild coffee is doing even better by integrating 7 new cooperatives in the wild coffee trade (2 in Kafa and 5 in Sheka) more than 1.000 smallholders have been added to the commercial trade.

Even considering that this is Sheka's first year of export, the unions have already prepared 5 containers equivalent to 90 MT of coffee to be shipped. The coffee is certified wild, organic and fair for life and farmers receive around double the price compared to the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX).

**T**hrough the develoPPP.de programme, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provides companies investing in developing and emerging countries with financial and, if required, also professional support. The company is responsible for covering at least half of the overall costs. This initiative provides a secure market and technical support to farmers and producers in countries like Ethiopia. GIZ is one of the implementation agencies for develoPPP projects.



## HONEY! Improving the livelihood of small holders without altering the natural ecosystem

The GIZ- develoPPP (Develop Public Private Partnership) initiative has been providing training to model farmers on honey quality management, pre-harvesting and post harvesting handling, standardized and food grade packaging and establishment of traceability system to enable two unions to export honey to Europe for the first time. Following the quality control, a production model

was developed, including HACCP (Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Point) and goods traceability system. After one year training, follow up and the supply of standard equipment, 21 MT (21,000KG) of semi-processed and organic honey from Kafa were exported to Germany for the first time. Additional semi-processed and organic honey is ready for export from Kafa and 21MT are also in preparation

from Sheka to be exported. This means, a total of 63MT of honey are directly exported from the smallholder farmer to Germany.

Through this, GIZ is strongly contributing to increase export, improve production, secure livelihood and protect the natural forest

### Contribution:

Solomon Mengesha, Honey value chain expert, DeveloPPP

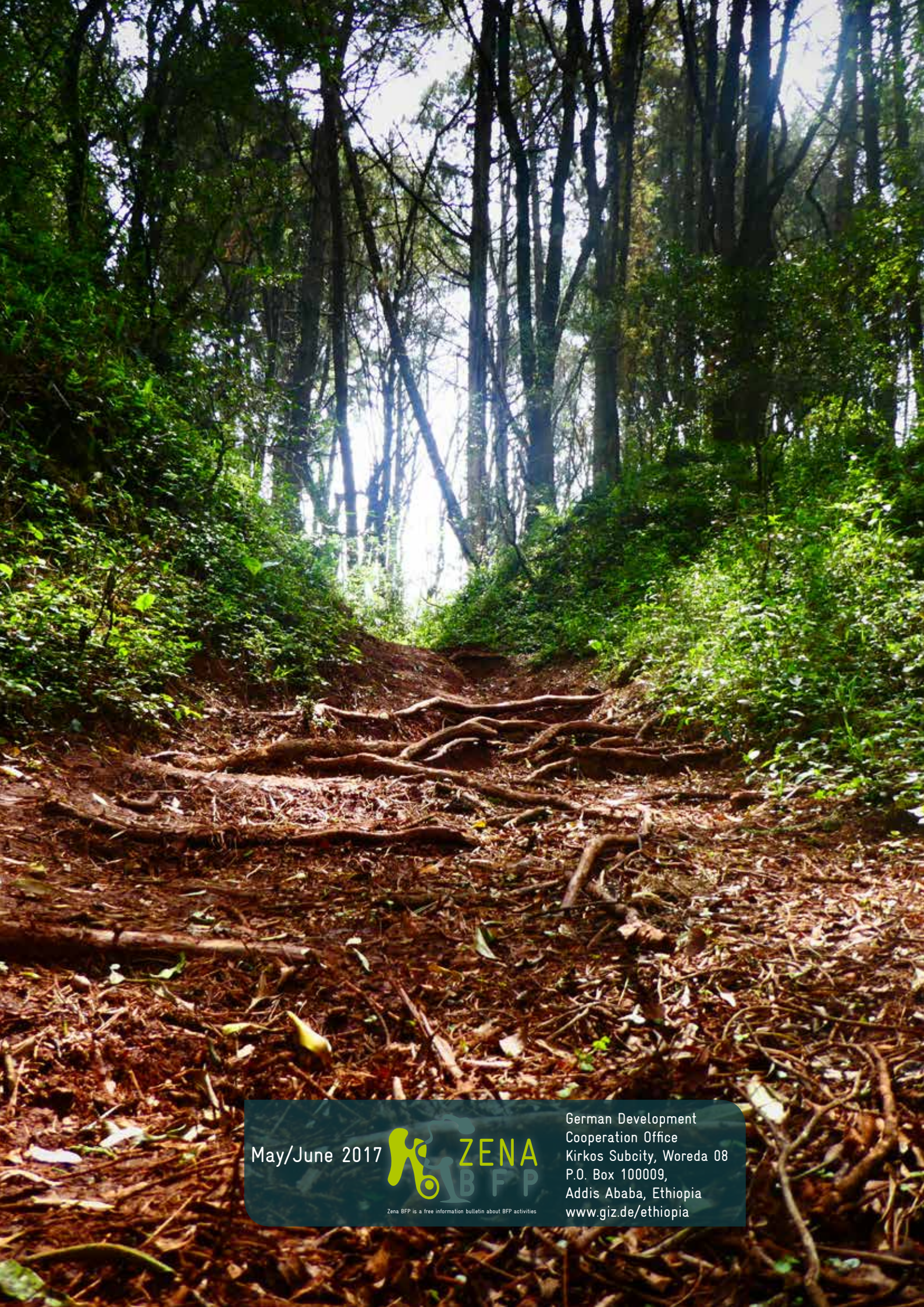
## Do you know...



Ethiopia is the leading honey and bee wax producer in Africa, with the highest number of bee colonies (more than 10 million) and a wide variety of honey source. However, the benefit to honey producers is still little. The apiculture sector utilizes less than 10%

of its potential in terms of honey and wax production. As an Ethiopian Customs report reveals, only 1% of the honey production of the country was exported. Reasons for this are the traditional practices (traditional bee hives that farmers hang

from trees), little experience in modern beehive management and poor knowledge about honey quality and limited access to standard honey processing equipment.



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