



giz KFW



Biodiversity and Forestry Programme

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



Zena BFP is a free information bulletin about BFP activities

A new life for returning migrants

Plantation of highland bamboo in Amhara Forest Enterprise (AFE)

New bylaw prohibits fishing inside Nech Sar National Park

Removal of invasive species

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OUR POINT OF VIEW

Biosphere Reserves

Mainstreaming Conservation and Development

For several years, UNESCO biosphere reserves have been promoted in Ethiopia to harmonize the needs of biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development. Currently, five areas are officially recognized by and registered with UNESCO, namely the Kafa, Yayu, Sheka, Lake Tana and Majang biosphere reserves.

To achieve a multitude of objectives related to the conservation, development and logistic functions of biosphere reserves, a multi-sectoral management approach is required that has to be based on the effective coordination of mandates, contributions and technical expertise of a variety of stakeholders.

For this purpose, and as part of the GIZ Biodiversity and Forestry Program (BFP), the UNIQUE/NABU Consortium is supporting the SNNPRS Environmental Protection and Forest Authority (EPFA) and the Oromia Environmental Protection, Forest and Climate Change Authority (OEFCCA) in piloting new innovative management structures for the Sheka and Yayu Biosphere Reserves.

These structures are based on a core management unit of a lead coordinator and two technical experts at zonal level who will closely cooperate with the various Government sector offices, community representatives, NGOs, forest enterprises, local investors and relevant research institutions.

A core task of these management units will be the mainstreaming of biosphere reserve guidelines and principles into strategic and operational plans of the relevant sectors. This will ensure that agriculture, forestry, tourism, infrastructure development and other activities are better aligned with and contribute to the conservation, development, and logistic functions of the biosphere reserves and the implementation of related management plans. For this purpose, the management units will also provide technical guidance to biosphere reserve focal persons at Woreda and development agents at Kebele levels respectively.

Overall supervision and steering of the management units will be provided by management boards at zonal level, chaired by the zonal administrators.

GIZ BFP will provide the new management structures in Yayu and Sheka, through the UNIQUE/NABU Consortium, with technical advice and local subsidy support for operational costs, capacity development, and equipment.



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Kassahun Abera, senior conservation advisor explaining the program to the German ambassador (@GIZ BFP)

German Unification Day 2017

On the 3rd of October, the German Day of Reunification (of former East- and West Germany) was celebrated. The German Embassy in Addis Ababa has invited German citizens and Ethiopian institutions to enjoy the afternoon together. The event was also

meant to inform the guests about the German organizations being active in Ethiopia. BFP was selected to represent GIZ's work. The programme has organized a booth showing facts and figures of BFP's activities, visitors had also gave the chance to visitors to experience our work

through the displayed samples of myrrh, forest coffee and indigenous tree seedlings. The booth was well accepted and even the newly assigned German Ambassador Mrs. Brita Wagener has informed herself about BFP activities.



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On October 3rd, the reunification of former east and west Germany was celebrated. The German embassy in addis ababa has invited

News

150 beekeeping groups equipped and trained for a better honey production

411 beneficiaries distributed in 150 groups in all areas where BFP is working have received all equipment necessary (beehives, smokers, proper clothing, gloves, etc.) and intensive training.

Ethiopia is the biggest honey producer in Africa with about 50.000 MT of honey produced every year. Local knowledge on beekeeping is high, but mostly related to traditional honey production. This means, using traditional hives (tubes made from local materials), hanging them on forest trees and harvesting honey and wax together (crude honey) once or twice a year. The method is wide-spread and easy to handle most local smallholders but often results in low production quantities and low honey quality (e.g. high moisture content). Nevertheless the local demand for honey is high, especially for the production of tej or honey wine. Honey quality is not crucial for local wine production and has therefore never incentivized modern or

more sophisticated production methods. Due to the traditional methods applied the production is lower than the existing potential.

The production of honey is in close relation and dependence to the abundance of flowers that feed the bees. Therefore, the conservation of forests is a key aspect to secure a long standing honey production.

GIZ-BFP is supporting all its partners, national parks, protected forests and regional governments, to promote beekeeping groups in exchange for conservation and tree plantation. The sale of honey will help farmers to improve their income and encourage them to protect the forests.

So far, 411 beneficiaries distributed in 150 groups in all areas where BFP is working have received all equipment necessary (beehives, smokers, proper clothing, gloves, etc.) and intensive training. The apiculture supplies include two modern and two transitional beehives. This set responds to the farmers request as a process to switch from traditional to modern beehives

Each beneficiary group is expected to scale up this initiative by supporting one additional new group after one year, to whom they will provide with one bee colony and one locally made transitional hive.

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Plantation of highland bamboo in Amhara Forest Enterprise (AFE)

Highland bamboo (*Yushania alpina*) is considered to be a fast growing species with high economic and ecological values. A wide variety of products can be made from it, including handicrafts, furniture, construction material, fiber for clothes, and other industrial products. Bamboos have also a considerable potential for climate mitigation and adaptation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and wider ecological restoration.

However, this species has not yet been capitalized. The reasons behind might be the lack of attention on bamboo expansion and development, lack of knowledge on the best and easiest propagation techniques and the absence of modern processing

techniques and problems associated to marketing. Limited availability of seeds and long flowering intervals, as well as poor seed storage facilities are the practical problems in bamboo large-scale propagation using seeds.

Since propagation by seed and tissue culture is difficult and not properly practiced, propagation by culms is the main practice in the region. Once the plant is established, it will multiply naturally very fast and will be a sustainable source of planting material for further expansion.

Due to the species' high economic and ecological significance, attention to its expansion must be given by different

stakeholders who have a role to play in its development and utilization. Therefore, the Amhara Forest Enterprise (AFE) has established a highland bamboo plantation with technical and financial support of GIZ BFP. In four different highland sites of Amhara, a total of 4200 culms (covering a total area of about 10 hectares) have been planted. Currently the performance at the plantation sites is encouraging, with a survival rate of more than 70%. If the results are positive, AFE will count on a reliable source of planting material to expand bamboo and so contribute significantly to socio economic development and ecological restoration.

Since propagation by seed and tissue culture is difficult and not properly practiced, propagation by culms is the main practice in Amhara.



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Faces & stories

A new life for returning migrants has been organized for tree plantation and beekeeping in Atsbi Womberta woreda, Tigray



Zewdu G/yohannes is only 23 years old and she is already a prominent member of one of the groups dedicated to tree plantation and beekeeping activities in Rubafeleg kebele, Atsebi womberta woreda, in Tigray. Even though she is young, she has migrated to Saudi Arabia, together with other hundred thousand Ethiopians, looking for a job and a better life. This year the Saudi government has deported all the ones without a working permit. Zewdu was among them and she had to return to her hometown. Fortunately for her and others, the government of Tigray has taken the decision of supporting the returning migrants and organized them in groups, providing them with land in order to tackle youth unemployment and address the challenge of livelihood improvement.

The Atsebi Womberta woreda is home to a large portion of the Dessa'a Forest. Dessa'a national priority forest is covered by natural forest, mainly dominated by Juniperus and Olea Africana. The forest is

located between two regions, Tigray and Afar, in eight woredas (four from Tigray and four from Afar).

Dessa'a faces many challenges, being deforestation and lack of alternative livelihood options for the surrounding population among the major ones. In order to tackle the need for livelihood options, GIZ-BFP is implementing an incentive-based approach for a private tree planting program with the intention of generating income for the involved individuals, improving the plantation culture, rehabilitating degraded hills and reducing the current pressure on Dessa'a forest.

Zewdu's group is one of the ones organized with the support of GIZ BFP in partnership with the woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office. Her group has 27 members (18 men and 9 women), where she has the responsibility of managing the inputs and resources of the group.

The group has already established a private plantation in an area of 7 Ha of land and has planted seedlings of Juniperus, Olea, Grevillea, Eucalyptus, among others, with 25% of indigenous and 75% of exotic species. The plantation programme is integrated to the bee keeping activity that aims to support the honey business, which has an already established market. The production of honey will allow farmers to get some income until the trees start producing benefit. Trees are also needed by the bees for home and forage. Another additional activity and business for the group is cattle fattening, that includes activities like fencing and shelter construction. The group will soon purchase livestock of their own. The diversified activities help the group to get short term returns with some of them, while the others will take some time. GIZ BFP provided support in terms of capacity building, training in the use of modern bee hives and the supply of accessories and technical follow up.

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photo: goytom berhe (© giz bfp)

News

New bylaw prohibits fishing inside Nech Sar National Park

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

A 15% of Nech Sar National Park, in SNNPR, is occupied by a portion of Lake Chamo and Lake Abaya. The lakes are the habitat of many wildlife species that enrich the park as a tourism attraction, like hippos and crocodiles. Besides, they are supposed to provide a secure breeding space for fishes. The portion of the lake that does not belong to the park is open to fishermen associations that make their living by selling fish to local restaurants and hotels, and also to traders that take the fishes to Addis Ababa. However, illegal fishing activities inside the park endanger the breeding sites and affect the whole aquatic ecosystem, as well as the local fishing economic sector. Illegal fishermen not only fish in the breeding

sites, but they do it using nonstandard fishing nets, catching small fishes and other aquatic species. Studies show that Nile Perch fish stock has declined at a very alarming rate in Lake Chamo during the past three years.

In the past two decades, efforts made to control illegal fishing on Lake Chamo were not successful in the absence of a legal binding system for licensed fishermen. In August 2017, Nech Sar National Park together with Arba Minch University, with the support of GIZ BFP, have started the assessment and mapping of breeding and ecologically sensitive sites in Lake Chamo, both inside and outside the park. They have also organized workshops to bring together fishermen associations for better protection of breeding sites in

Lake Chamo from illegal fishing.

Recently, Nech Sar National Park and concerned stakeholders, in consultation with the local judiciary system officers, have promoted the development of a bylaw which specifically restricts fishing in the area of Lake Chamo that belongs to the park. This bylaw has been signed by five legally licensed fishermen associations and Nech Sar National Park. Since the developed bylaw is in line with cooperative and fishing proclamations, it enables legally licensed fishermen associations to have full power and responsibility to control illegal fishing. The national park and other stakeholders are also responsible to support fishermen associations in law enforcement.



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photo: Dereje Abera (© GIZ BFP)

Assessment on management options for a new forest enterprise in SNNPR

The SNNPR has expressed its interest in establishing a regional forest enterprise, with the purpose of enhancing sustainable forest development. Parallel, the Oromia and Amhara Forest Enterprises have expressed their concern for to assess their current operations and continuous development of their forest enterprises.

To address these demands, GIZ BFP has engaged an experienced international consultant to identify a clear concept for the organizations that makes them able to steer and manage the enterprises and their forests. The mission team separately visited and discussed with the two regional enterprises and the SNNPRS to identify and understand the particular situations in the target areas, with

assistance from GIZ BFP regional advisors for the three regions.

As a conclusion of the assessment, key members from the forest enterprises of Amhara and Oromia, the environment protection and forest authorities of the three regions, and the bureau of agriculture and natural resource of Tigray region, were invited to a joint workshop to discuss on common issues related to regional forest management and to learn from each other's' experiences. In the workshop, issues like enhancing forest management skills at branch level; expansion of plantation forest within the concessions; the need for careful analysis of change in natural forest management; focusing investment in forest sector to promote the contribution of

the sector for sustainable regional and rural development; assessment and amendment of joint forest management strategy; and the alignment of structure with mandates of the enterprises regarding productive natural forest management were raised and discussed.

For the planned enterprise in SNNPRS, an assessment on organizational structure options was presented. Following the presentation, the participants reflected on the suggested options, shared their experiences and lessons on the issues, and expressed their interest to take into consideration the inputs of the consultancy mission. Finally, all participants expressed their appreciation for the peer learning and experience sharing platform organized by the programme.

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Ethiopian ranger's established an association for the first time

It has been 50 years since Ethiopia established the first game parks - Awash and Simien Mountains National Parks. Wildlife rangers (also known as scouts) are on the forefront on the endless struggle to sustain the ever shrinking wildlife refuges in Ethiopia. Many of them have already sacrificed their lives and left behind their families to stand for wildlife conservation, from the whizzing cold areas as in Simien and Bale Mountains to the blazing hot areas as in Omo and Gambella National Parks.

Worldwide, rangers have created associations to protect their rights and

to improve their preparation and working conditions. The rangers association of Africa and World Rangers Federations were established in 1970 and 1992, respectively. Ethiopia was not member of these associations and as a result, Ethiopian rangers were not represented there.

The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) understood the need for such institution and endorsed the establishment of the first rangers' association of Ethiopia at its 5th Annual Ethiopian Protected Area Wardens consultative meeting held in Borena

Wildlife rangers are on the forefront on the endless struggle to sustain the ever shrinking wildlife refuges in Ethiopia.

Sayint Worehimeno National Park on the 19th of October 2017.

Five chief scouts have been elected and assigned the task of following-up on further formalities to finalize the legalization process



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

Apple trees planting in Borena Saynt National Park

Borena Saynt National Park protects important ecosystems, like Afro-montane forest, festuca grassland and moors. Besides, it is home to the famous and endangered Ethiopian wolf. Unfortunately, during the last years, the high rate of population growth and the competition for resources, have led communities to encroach the park to look for timber, fuel wood, grass, among others.

To tackle this problem, Borena Saynt Werehimo National Park is engaged in

providing alternative livelihood options for the surrounding communities to avoid the dependency of farmers on the park's resources.

The apple production is believed to improve the income of farmers and at the same time, it provides families with a nutritional supplement. Apple trees also help reducing negative ecological impacts, like erosion and soil loss, and increase the vegetation cover in an already highly degraded area.

Supported by GIZ-BFP, the park has integrated the development of highland fruit in the highland part of the park surroundings. In the past July 245 farmers, 8 Kebele agricultural office experts, 7 park office experts and 7 scout leaders, who were selected from 11 Kebeles, have received apple development and management practical training. Following the training the 245 farmers have received a total of 5,250 apple seedlings to plant them in their home garden.

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News

Training on patrolling and anti-poaching techniques for scouts

As a part of a broad program to improve the management and protection of national parks, a group of 47 scouts and experts from Awash and Hallaydeghi National Parks have received on-site training during one month in October. Among the group, 9 scouts from Nech Sar, Borena Saynt and Chebera Churchura National Parks are being trained as future trainers.

The training includes topics like patrolling systems, reporting, legal issues, anti-poaching, self-defense, discipline, how to

interact with local communities, tourists and visitors, how to interact with wildlife, among others.

Most of the scouts have not received any training before and this one gives them the opportunity to learn all skills necessary to take care of themselves while performing their duties protecting the park.

Nugussi Damite, from Nech Sar National Park, mentioned that before the training he did not understand the real meaning

of the park and why it was important to protect it, how to arrest poachers or how to communicate with communities. Now he feels better prepared and motivated to do his job. Bibiso Weyu, from Chebera Churchura National Park said that the training has changed his private life, since he knows how to look after himself and protect his own life.

This is the third edition of the law enforcement and anti-poaching training organized by GIZ BFP and the park administrations.

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Removal of invasive species in national parks

Invasive plant species pose significant threats to different aspects of biodiversity – i.e. species and communities, ecosystem properties, biogeochemistry and ecosystem dynamics, ecosystem services and economic aspects. There are at least 35 invasive alien plant species that are posing negative impacts on biodiversity and other land use systems; of which *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, *Opuntia stricta*, *Mimosa diplotricha*, *Mimosa pigra*, *Cryptostegia grandiflora*, *Lantana camara*, water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and *Acacia saligna* are among the 20 most invasive plant affecting natural and built-up ecosystems in Ethiopia. All GIZ-Biodiversity and Forestry Programme (GIZ-BFP) conservation intervention sites, except Chebera Churchura National Park have

reported the presence of invasive plant species, with *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Lantana camara*, *Dichrostachys cinerea* and *Abutilon sp* being the most aggressive once. Afar, SNNPRS and Oromia regions are known to have the highest infestations of *Prosopis juliflora* invasion in the country. *Prosopis juliflora* is believed to have invaded over 4 million hectares of land in Africa. Currently, *Prosopis* invasion is estimated well above 1 million hectares (1,117,510 hectares) taking over prime grazing and irrigable land in Afar region alone and the spread of the plant is advancing at the rate of about 50,000 hectares per annum. The wildlife habitats in Hallaydeghe-Asebot, Awash and Nech Sar National Parks are hence the victims of this invasive plant. The livestock pressure on these sites is believed to have promoted the spread of the invasive

in the parks. We have also learnt from our interventions that, some invasive plants (e.g. *Dichrostachys cinerea*) propagate through their longitudinal roots. Mitigating the impact of these invasive plants was one of the major habitat management tasks of GIZ-BFP in 2017. The programme has technically and financially supported these sites to manually clear a total 220 hectares of land in the protected areas which was affected by different invasive plants. Mechanical debushing, application of chemicals and linking the debushing with livelihood improvement aspects are among the activities foreseen by the programme in the years to come.

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