



Issue #9
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Community

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for the first time in Ethiopia

Protecting Ethiopia's last
wild coffee forests

General Management Plans
for Protected Areas



03

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04

Community conservation strategy designed for the first time in Ethiopia

05

Black pepper seedling production improves the income of women

07

Workshop on Tree Seed Quality in Ethiopia

07

General Management Plans for Protected Areas

06

International Corner AFR100 initiative

05

EWCA target organization validation workshop



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Protecting Ethiopia's last wild coffee forests

Bekele Haile forest coffee programme coordinator

Between 2003 and 2018, different development partnerships among private companies in Germany and GIZ, have benefitted around 60,000 farmers in the production and export of certified wild coffee from Kafa and Sheka Biosphere Reserves. The projects have involved forest protection measures to provide the ideal conditions for wild coffee growing and the capacity building of producers to meet European quality standards.

Even though the presence of 3 Biosphere Reserves, Kafa, Sheka and Yayu, the forest in the South West of Ethiopia are still under heavy threat from human encroachment. In April 2018, GIZ has started a new intervention in forest coffee on behalf of the Partnership for Forests Project. The main objective is to develop an improved supply chain and a premium brand for Ethiopian forest coffee.

Utilizing the initial development partnerships as foundations, the new project has expanded the intervention area to Bale, Bench Maji, Ilu Babor, Kafa and Sheka.

Up to date, the project has provided capacity building to 373 coffee farmers in 40 coffee cooperatives from 13 Woredas on harvest and post-harvest techniques. The training process also included a Train of

Trainer module to create local skills for further training.

Peer trainings were afterwards held in local languages. So far 3,128 coffee farmers of whom 15% are women, from 25 cooperatives have received farmer-to-farmer training. It is expected that until November about 6,000 coffee farmers will be trained in quality coffee harvest and post-harvest measures.

In addition to the training in the field, coffee farmers from ten selected cooperatives have participated in a coffee quality and cupping workshop conducted by the coffee trading company Moplaco, which is partnering with GIZ on the project, in Addis Ababa. The aim of this workshop was to learn about how to evaluate the characteristics and quality of their coffee.

The project team works together with experienced experts from the Coffee and Tea Development Authority, cooperative promotion offices, and coffee unions from the intervention sites.

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The main objective is to develop an improved supply chain and a premium brand for Ethiopian forest coffee.

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Community conservation strategy designed for the first time in Ethiopia

Greta F. Iori Consultant

conservation of the natural habitats and biodiversity is imperative for long term sustainability, which is only possible through partnerships based on trust and alliance with all stakeholders.

Many failed attempts to sustainably manage natural areas in Ethiopia and globally have led conservation practitioners and leaders to recognize the need for a more inclusive management framework which considers the needs of local communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources found within and around protected areas. Cooperatively defining and negotiating what types of benefits to share, with whom, over what terms is fundamental for community conservation. Not only does this allow for conservation to provide a far more justifiable approach to safeguard wildlife and natural resources in the long-term, it provides space for creating solutions for those resource users who are most negatively affected by conservation activities,

including sometimes bearing the cost of lost production (agriculture), lost access (grazing lands and settlements) and wildlife inflicted asset damage (human-wildlife conflict).

In order to address this need, GIZ-BFP has supported the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA) through an international consultant to develop the first ever Ethiopian Community Conservation Strategy, to be implemented by the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA).

The negotiation processes, engagement and agreement with local communities and stakeholders was conducted through field work across two pilot sites in Chebera-Churchura and Kafta-Shiraro National Parks. A final participatory stakeholders' validation workshop was held in Addis Ababa with EWCA on June 7th, 2018, which defined the final strategic objectives for the 5-year strategy. The formalization of the endorsement of the strategy by EWCA is still pending.

Ethiopia is facing unprecedented demographic growth, rapid industrialisation, and climate change, which exacerbates the pressures on the country's natural resources, wildlife, forests and arable lands. As one of Africa's poorest and most densely populated nations and with over 80% of its people depending on subsistence agriculture, the

EWCA target organization validation workshop

Jens Debus Consultant

As part of the organizational development process taking place at EWCA since April 2017, another cornerstone was laid in the past October during the consolidation and validation workshop for EWCA's target organization.

The organizational development process has started with a detailed situational analysis of EWCA's current organizational structure as of 1 January 2018 and the elaboration of the Personnel Report 2018 in February 2018. Along the process, several workshops were undertaken by EWCA with the support of GIZ BFP and an international advisor on Human Resources and Organizational Development in order to define EWCA's target organization as

of 1st January 2020.

In April 2018, a workshop with a mixed group of approximately 20 participants have identified the needs for a potential target organization in Awash National Park. Furthermore, criteria have been identified in order to apply the target organization for national parks to all 13 EWCA National Parks.

The first support function within the organization, the Human Resources Directorate, has been reviewed in early May 2018 in order to establish an HR target organization. During two sessions in Adama in August, both the core Directorates as well as the Advisory Functions and the remaining Support

Directorates have been discussed among a multidisciplinary team of senior EWCA staff.

The target organization indicates what kind of organization EWCA aims to become by 2020 and defines the steps to be followed towards that objective: an effective and efficient public institution focused on protected area park management.

The final target organization is still subject to approval by all relevant stakeholders, including the respective newly created Commission of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change, as well as the Ministry of Civil Services.

Black pepper seedling production improves the income of women

Keriyah Yassin Ahmed Sheka BR Adviser

Biosphere reserves are protected areas that integrate biodiversity conservation, socioeconomic development and research activities in the same area with equal consideration.

UNIQUE/NABU Consulting Consortium on behalf of GIZ Biodiversity and Forestry Program (BFP) supports the management and development of Sheka and Yayu Biosphere reserves, including the promotion of value chains.

Sheka forest biosphere reserve has been a long-standing production area of spices, which have a high price in the market. They represent therefore an attractive economic activity for farmers. Among those spices, black pepper has a huge potential and yet remained underexploited. The production system is still hardly organized and hence characterized with low productivity and

low quality mainly based on traditional and primitive practices.

Black pepper requires a support tree and shade to thrive, and it is therefore, one of the non-timber forest products that can be grown well in the natural forest and help its conservation.

With the technical support of the Tepi Research Centre and the introduction of innovative seedling production of black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.), commonly known as "King of spices", 9 private nurseries have been established by smallholder female farmers. This action aims to fill the gap of quality seedling provision to farmers.

Practical training on black pepper seedling preparation and nursery management was given to twenty-one (21) individuals (nine women farmers, nine development

Sheka forest biosphere reserve has been a long-standing production area of spices,

workers and three experts) in selected nursery sites. Finally, field sessions were organized and farmers' views about the overall activities and transferred technologies were collected.

Additionally, a market linkage training was held for female farmers, development agents, Woreda experts, and Woreda Administrators at different level of spice producing areas (from Sheka, Benchimaji and Majang Zones). The promotion of the seedlings is made through Tepi Research Center website.

As a result of this process, a total of 50,000 pepper seedlings were produced in the 9 nurseries. The seedlings were sold and distributed to other 500 local women farmers. The women responsible for the nurseries have got a minimum of 27,000 ETB profit per individual in the first trial.

International Corner

AFR100 initiative

African countries have experienced the world's most extreme land degradation. This degradation is hindering Africa's sustainable economic development and its resilience to climate change, but this cycle can be reversed. Africa has the largest restoration opportunity of any continent in the world – more than 700 million hectares of degraded land, or an area the size of Australia. Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) can deliver significant benefits and restoration efforts have already proven successful in several African countries.

AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) is an initiative of 27 countries to bring 100 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across Africa into restoration by 2030. In this context, Ethiopia has pledged to restore 22 million hectares of degraded forest. The land initiative connects participating African nations with technical and financial support to scale-up restoration on the ground and capture associated benefits for food security, climate change resilience, and poverty alleviation.

AFR100 contributes to the Bonn Challenge, the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI), the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals and other international agreements.

To date, 27 African nations have signed onto AFR100 and committed a combined 111 million hectares of land to be restored. Twelve financial partners and twenty-seven technical partners support

partner countries to assess restoration opportunities, develop strategies, and accelerate implementation on the ground. Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) supports the AFR100 platform and in-country engagement, alongside partners including the World Bank.

Source: <https://www.wri.org/our-work/project/AFR100/about-afr100>

AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting, Nairobi

Solomon Demissie Natural Resource Economist

The 3rd AFR100 Annual Partnership Meeting has been held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26th to 28th of August 2018. This 2-day technical meeting has introduced the lessons learned and good practices gathered so far along the restoration process in the different African countries.

The representatives of signatory countries shared their experiences in FLR. In general, all cases emphasized that the transition must be country-driven, the bottom-up planning should be strengthened, strong business cases are important, incentives are necessary to catalyze the private sectors and practical planning should lead the way forward.

“ Africa has the largest restoration opportunity of any continent in the world ”

The implementation of AFR100 – FLR in BFP

The AFR100 initiative has been launched in 2015 by the Ethiopian Government. Since its beginning in 2016, GIZ- BFP has been contributing to the Ethiopian restoration pledge. In February 2018, a new pilot project through the GIZ sector project International Forest Policy (IWP) has been launched to enhance GIZ's engagement in FLR and to develop FLR policy assessment tools. In line with the AFR100 objectives, IWP has executed so far significant activities that include a comprehensive study on preserving the ecosystem services of Lake Chamo, close to Arba Minch town, SNNPR, and the rehabilitation of the catchment area. Based on the directions of the above study, a mapping of Geja Natural Forest and wetlands has been carried out, as well as the identification of plantation areas. The planting of trees is currently taking place.





General Management Plans for Protected Areas

” The General Management Plan of Awash National Park, with a one-year detailed action plan is finalized ”

Kassahun Abera Senior Advisor for Conservation

The General Management Plan (GMP - 2018 - 2028) of Awash National Park, with a one-year detailed action plan (2019 - 2020) is finalized and ready for validation. The validation workshop is scheduled to be held on the 27th of November 2018. Representatives from the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), local administrations, key conservation partners and local communities are expected to attend the validation event. GIZ-BFP will support the implementation of initial strategic actions of the GMP during the first two quarters of 2019.

The preparation of two additional management plans for other national parks has already started, following the same methodology used for Awash National Park, this is a fully participatory and practical approach

carried out with the active participation of local stakeholders. In Borena Sayint Worehimeno (BSW) and Hallaydeghe Asebot Proposed (HAP) National Parks the process has started by training 45 conservation experts on the approaches and principles of developing a GMP. The training was also open for 9 experts from HAP, 10 from BSW, 8 from Amhara region Wildlife Development and Protection Authority, and 6 from two federally (EWCA) managed National Parks and 12 from four community managed conservation areas.

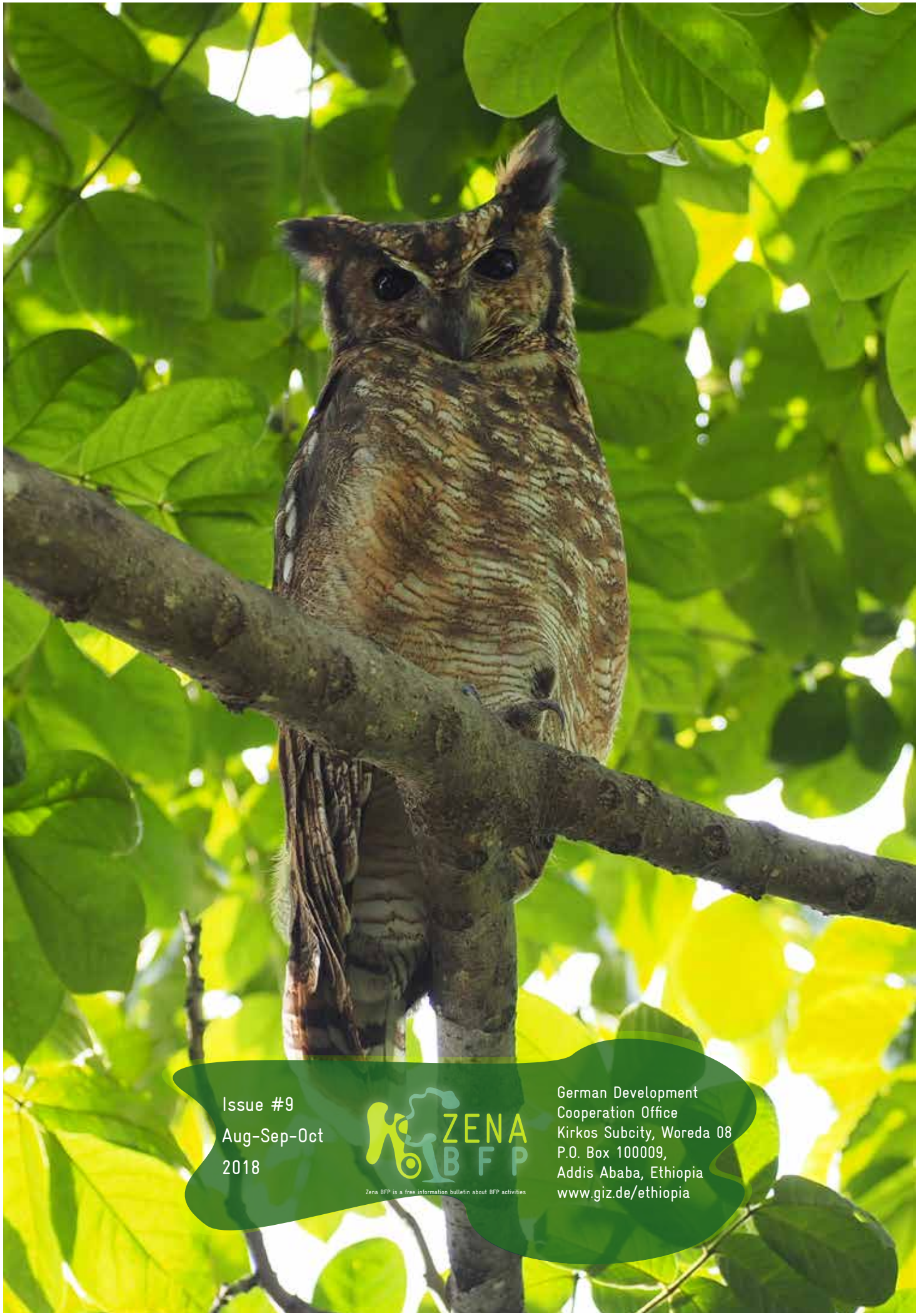
By now, the situational and stakeholder analysis for BSW and HAP is completed. Stakeholder consultation workshops for HAP and BSW is scheduled for 28th - 30th of November 2018 and 03rd - 06th December 2018, respectively.

Fruit tree production: for livelihood improvement

The positive relation between fruit tree production, food security and income generation encourages farmers to involve in fruit tree development.

Borena Sayint Worehimeno National Park supports the communities living around the park to produce avocado and mango in order to improve the income of farmers and to reduce their dependency on the natural resources of the park. A 2-day training in mango and avocado tree management for 40 farmers and 3 local government experts has taken place in June. The training included theoretical and practical sections on site selection, propagation methods, seedling planting methods, disease protection and control methods, fruit management and harvesting techniques.

After the training the farmers were provided with mango and avocado tree seedlings. In two kebele, 3 mango and 4 avocado seedlings were given to 20 farmers and we 10 additional mango and avocado seedlings were provided to selected 10 farmers.



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