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Zena BFP is a free information bulletin about BFP activities

World Wildlife Day

Female scouts get prepared for park protection

Improving the production of gum and resin in Amhara

Wildlife monitoring in Chebera Churchura National park



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OUR POINT OF VIEW

Creation of forests beyond tree planting

In Ethiopia, billions of tree seedlings are planted every year, but not so many succeed to overcome the planting shock. However, the statistics focus only on the planted trees and not on the forests that stay or the increase in the supply of forest products, for example.

The establishment of forests, the rehabilitation of landscapes (FLR = Forest Landscape Restoration) and the development of sustainable forestry is currently a top political priority for the Ethiopian government. The aim is to restore ecosystem services (erosion protection, water balance, carbon fixation, etc.). In all activities, the management of forests (mainly plantations in buffer zones of existing protected areas) will help supplying the Ethiopian market with tree-based fuel sources and timber.

At GIZ BFP the approach for the forestry component of the projects goes beyond planting trees. Our intention is to create forests that can provide a whole range of ecosystem services that will secure access to forest resources, biodiversity, water for agriculture, and food security.

The basic approach includes:

Individuals, small community groups and small and medium enterprises shall create forests with short, medium, and long term rotation, involving indigenous and exotic tree species

- Women involvement in this forest creation support is highly encouraged
- Farms between 0.5 hectare to 20 hectares can be included in this approach
- The approach promotes mixed plantation in species (diversity) and in future age distribution.
- The management system applied shall give incentive avoiding clear cut and supporting permanent tree growing at least at slopes and erosion sensitive areas.
- The objective of the plantation is to create forests, to produce timber and to create jobs and income.
- These forests will also conserve the landscapes from erosion and land-slides, and will improve the water regime, and finally contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change.



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After a break at the end of last year, Zena is back with more news



World Wildlife day will be celebrated in March 3, 2018

On March 3rd 1973, the text of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was agreed and signed by representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C. Forty years later, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 3rd, as the UN World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants.

The World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2018 under the theme "Big cats: predators under threat".

Big cats are among the most widely recognized and admired animals across the globe.

However, their populations are declining at a disturbing rate due to loss of habitat and prey, conflicts with people, poaching and illegal trade. For example, tiger populations plummeted by 95% over the past 100 years and African lion populations dropped by 40% in just 20 years.

Big cat species are found in Africa, Asia, and North, Central and South America, representing a virtually global distribution.

In Ethiopia, big cats can still be found in some national parks, but due to the increasing loss of their habitat and the presence of pastoralists inside parks like Awash, their populations are under enormous threat and

decreasing in numbers. Their disappearance would have a big impact in the ecology. Accurate information about wildlife population is important to allow park manager to make decisions. BFP is creating capacities in scouts and park experts in wildlife monitoring.

World Wildlife Day 2018 gives us the opportunity to reflect and raise awareness about conserving the most endangered wildlife species.

For more information, visit www.wildlifeday.org

World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2018 under the theme "Big cats: predators under threat".

"Big cats: predators under threat"



News

Capacity Building in General Management Plan Development and Implementation in National Parks

A total of 32 experts from EWCA's headquarters, parks and regional representatives from Oromia, Amhara and Southern region have participated in general management training.

Management plans are the instruments that guide park managers and other interested parties on how an area should be managed, today and in the future. Developing management plan for national parks is crucial to describe and understand the existing ecosystems, the challenges and the potentials of national parks.

Ethiopia has 21 National Parks, which are either managed by Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority or by the Regions. However, only few of them have a management plan. As a consequence, the National Biodiversity and Action Plan (2015-2020) is promoting the development of management plans for *in situ* conservation. The current trend indicates that management plans are being developed by in-house human

resources, but at EWCA and regional level, very few people have the required knowledge and experience to develop a management plan.

To strengthen the national effort of management plan development, EWCA plans to build the internal capacity of the organization in Protected Area Management plan Development and Implementation. As a first step in that direction, a training on "Protected Area Management Plan Development and Implementation" was carried out from November 6 to 10, 2017, with the support of GIZ Biodiversity and Forestry Programme (BFP).

A total of 32 experts from EWCA's headquarters, parks and regional representatives from Oromia, Amhara and Southern region have participated in the training facilitated by Kevan Zunkel, a

conservation planning expert from South Africa. This training was mainly focused on the management plan framework development, information gathering and analysis, stakeholders involvement in the planning process, and monitoring and evaluation of the progress in order to review the plan within the context of adaptive management.

At the end of the workshop, participants have defined a roadmap for Awash National Park management plan development. This road map has started to be implemented on the ground with a first situational analysis that has been done in December by EWCA experts in Awash National Park. A stakeholders workshop will be held in March and the process should be finalized by June 2018 with the validation of Awash General Management Plan.

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News

Adopting improved technology in beekeeping management

Despite the long tradition in beekeeping in Ethiopia, honey production remains largely untapped as a formal industry in Ethiopia. More than 90 percent of Ethiopia's honey is still produced using traditional beehives. Many farmers lack modern technologies, operate on a small scale, and are unaware of the quality of their product and potential markets outside of their immediate communities.

Beekeeping around Chebera Churchura national park is a culturally rooted activity, as well as an important and well established source of

income. Traditional hives are made using the bark of a local tree called ambe (*Terminalia brownie*), and are usually hung in the natural forest away from the farmers' residences, which hinders high productivity and close supervision. Even though honey production in the area is high, the quality and the production process still need improvement. Since 2017, GIZ-BFP has provided expertise and general support in different sites, including Chebera Cherkura, to encourage beekeepers to adopt technologies and practices that will help them to improve their productivity and the product quality.

Based on this, 39 beekeepers (4 women and 35 men) from 2 Kebeles, Gudimu and Delba, were selected and a first phase of 4-day training was provided to the groups, addressing key issues of how to start and manage a beekeeping site.

More than 90 percent of Ethiopia's honey is still produced using traditional beehives.



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photo: Getachew Beyene (© GIZ BFP)

Faces & stories

Female scouts get prepared for park protection



“The training has brought change in my work and in my life”
Bayush is now better prepared and feels more confident to perform her job

Bayush Terefe is one of four female scouts in Nech Sar National Park and one of the 32 female scouts in EWCA as a whole. She began working in the park as janitor and last year she decided to take a step further and become a scout.

Scout training has not been available for new scouts, so unlike the senior scouts, Bayush did not have any self-defense skills and surveillance knowledge. She was scared while performing patrolling activities.

“I don’t have mother and father who support me in my day-to-day life.” Bayush explains. “I am living with my brother and his son. I am expected to support this family. I have changed from janitor to scout to improve my salary. However, being a scout has a lot of risk for our life.”

Bayush has taken part in one of the trainings provided by the Biodiversity and Forestry program from April 27 to May 19, 2017. The training focused on wildlife protection and conservation, self-defense, techniques to handle poachers and illegal activities in the park, how to interact with tourists and community members, among others. Bayush was one of the trainees, as well as another female scout, among 18 male scouts from Nech Sar and 15 from Chebera Churchura National Park.

“The training is exactly what was needed for our day to day activities. The trainer identified our skill gaps and has provided training on wildlife conservation, why we do patrolling, and how we should patrol with different techniques. In addition to this, we have received materials like clothes, shoes, and camping materials

from BFP that will help us to be better prepared for our work. Following the training, I started to feel better and more confident to do patrolling.

According to Bayush “Scouts are always facing potential danger. My colleagues have been affected by illegal actors several times. I still cannot forget the shooting between scouts and illegal fishers in Lake Chamo. Had it been this situation after the training, shooting would not have happened. Lack of skills and experience in the way of handling illegal actors aggravated the problems that we have to face every day. “The training has brought change in my work and in my life because I am fully equipped with self- defense techniques to do the patrol which is crucial to protect our own lives and to protect the park”.

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photo: Dereje Abera (© giz bfp)

News

On-farm coaching for apple producers in the surrounding of Borena Sayint Worehimeno National Park

Coaching to 85 home gardens for appropriate management of apple farming around Borena Saynt National Park.

BFP believes that income diversification at household level could contribute for reducing the pressure on the park by the surrounding inhabitants. Additionally, it also diversifies and enriches the diet of the community.

GIZ-BFP has supported the park managers in the provision of 5,250

apple seedlings and in the training of 245 farmers in August 2017 in the highland surrounding part of Borena Saynt Worehimeno National Park. As a follow-up measure, site coaching support has been provided in 85 home gardens in December 2017, where nearby farmers came together and got the coaching in this selected farms. The coaching has

mainly focused on the management of apple farming, including site fencing, mulching, composting, staking, watering, branching, ring preparation, disease, and pest controlling methods. The coaching program, in addition to the initial training, has boosted the farmers' skills and confidence in managing the apple trees productively.

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photo: Abnew Emiru (© GIZ BFP)

News



Integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation in Biosphere Reserve

Climate change, which is caused by a rise of atmospheric temperatures due to increased carbon dioxide emissions, has become a major worldwide concern as it leads to environmental and ecosystem changes, that jeopardize not only agricultural production but the well-being and health of people around the world.

The GIZ Biodiversity and Forestry Program (BFP) and the UNIQUE/NABU Consulting Consortium organized a two-day training workshop on December 4 to 5, 2017 on climate change and forestry for key stakeholders of the Biosphere

Reserves Yayu, Sheka, Kafa and Lake Tana. A total of 36 participants drawn from three regional states representing diverse sectors attended the training. The overall objective of the training was to provide key stakeholders with a better understanding of causes and effects of climate change in the specific local Biosphere Reserve context so that they are able to make better decisions and consider and implement related mitigation/adaptation measures and financing mechanisms. The training emphasized on Ethiopia's climate change response (CRGE and NAP), managing

forest for climate and non-climate benefits, forest development and conservation challenges, as well as history and progress of REDD+ in Ethiopia.

The training included a variety of techniques to ensure an active participation of the participants and a proper sharing of knowledge among the participants. A quiz was developed to identify and track the participants' understanding on the training topics before and after the training.

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Government officials trained in environmental and social impact assessment

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a legally required instrument for planning and licensing processes of large-scale investment projects, in order to mitigate and compensate for potential negative impacts on the environment and on the well-being of local people.

The GIZ Biodiversity and Forestry Program (BFP) together with the UNIQUE/ NABU Consulting Consortium organized a two-

day training workshop on December 6 to 7, 2017 on Environmental and Social Impact Assessments in the context of Biosphere Reserve Management in Ethiopia. The workshop was addressed for 36 key stakeholders of the Yayu, Sheka, Kafa and Lake Tana Biosphere Reserves.

The overall objective of the training was to involve key government officials in the EIA/ESIA processes, for better decision making, monitoring and supervision of

investment and infrastructure projects in the Yayu and Sheka Biosphere Reserves. Decision makers should be well prepared to understand, apply and supervise the legal provisions, conditions, criteria and processes related to environmental and social impact assessments in the biosphere reserve context.

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Despite the huge potential for gum and incense production, the export trade is not significant. Ethiopia has 1% of the world market and 28% percent of Africa's export trade.

Improving The Production Of Gum and Resin in Amhara

Gum and Resin has been historically and traditionally produced in Ethiopia. Despite the huge potential for gum and incense production; the export trade is not significant Ethiopia has 1% of the world market and 28% percent of Africa's export trade.

In order to improve the potential of production and export capacities, it is essential to implement concerted and integrated multidimensional management interventions. In the Amhara Region only licensed companies and producers can create specialized gum-producing cooperatives. Only these cooperatives are allowed to tap trees for resin extraction in concession areas. However, the same community members can obtain permits to cut down trees (often gum-producing ones) for house construction.

The local authorities' capacity to protect dry forests needs further strengthening. Amhara region Environment and Wildlife Conservation and Development Authority, with support of GIZ BFP, has conducted a

two days training workshop on gum and resins. The workshop dealt on regional legislation on gum and resins resources production, processing and marketing in Amhara region and it has been conducted from December 12-13, 2017 in Metema Town. The training was provided to 50 participants coming from the region, zones and woredas that have good potential for this kind of resources. The objective of the training workshop was to familiarize participants with the existent regional legislation for the sustainable management and utilization of the resources.

The main challenges raised during the discussions were the inefficient procedures for giving license on harvesting, processing and marketing, poor follow-up of the production and marketing process, overgrazing and fire incidents, and lack of appropriate propagation techniques.

In addition to creating awareness on the legislation, a technical training was also

provided by the manager of branch office of Ethiopian Gum and Resins Enterprise. The contents of this training include technical aspects of the resources, such as how to tap the trees properly, how to maintain quality both for domestic and export market, how to propagate and to protect the trees. The training was given both by demonstrating the various quality grades of incense and also practical tapping procedures in the field.

Final recommendations of the workshop indicate the need to cascade the training to zone and woreda experts and to communities, strict follow up on the production process in order to guarantee the quality of products, technical support on organized groups and cooperatives, search for appropriate solutions for effective propagation techniques, make a detailed resource assessment and mapping which will be the basis for preparation of a long term management plan.

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Demonstrating the different quality grades of gum and incense

News

Monitoring wildlife with Global Positioning System (GPS) and Camera Traps in Chebera Churchura National Park Staff.

Monitoring the abundance and distribution of species is an important task of any park as it flags out the status of the species. Wildlife ecologists use various techniques and tools to monitor wildlife species, such as GPS and camera traps. GPS is a space-based radio navigation system that indicates a position anywhere in the world. The work of scouts and wildlife biologists involve spatial (locational) issues, such as locating their camps

while patrolling and tracking patrolling routes, calculating areas (e.g. invasive plant infestation sites, wetlands, and burned areas), keeping records of wildlife observations, important landmarks, habitat conditions. Camera traps are used to monitor nocturnal and illusive animals as well as illegal activities in the park.

Being one of the key activities in park management and conservation, BFP has handed over wildlife monitoring equipment for the park, including 5 camera traps

and 8 GPS devices.. The handing over has been accompanied with a field and hands-on training for ten scouts and four experts of the park during three days. The content covered topics like mechanical manipulation and configurations of a GPS device to recording observations as waypoints; recording travel routes and tracks, calculating areas and navigating through landscapes using a GPS device, as well as camera trap use.



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BFP has handed over wildlife monitoring equipment for the park, including 5 camera traps and 8 GPS devices.



Nech Sar National Park

Nech Sar National Park is one of the most important national parks in Ethiopia. Established in 1974 in the most scenic part of the Rift Valley, between the lakes Abaya and Chamo, the park comprises 514 km in which 85% is land and 15% water body.

The park is named after the white grass that covers the undulating plains and contrasts with the black basalt rocks of the Amaro Mountains to the east, and the black soils of the plains. The name derived from the Amharic words "Nech" that means "white" and "Sar" meaning "grass".

Nech Sar NP is adjacent to Arba Minch town, where the whole BFP team has gathered for a team building and planning workshop, at the end of November 2017 (see picture below).





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