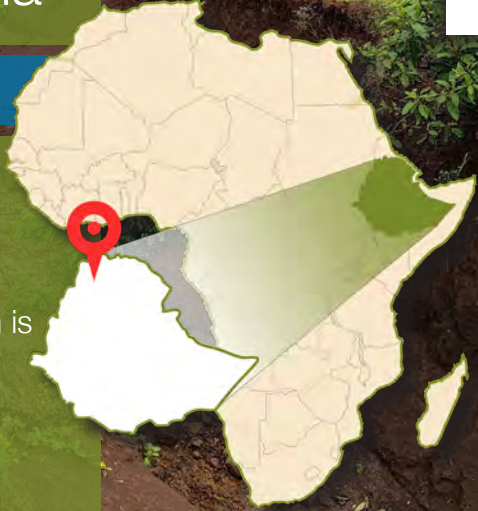# Gewocha Forest, Ethiopia

Mid-Year Update 2022

The first six months of 2022 were spent preparing for the first-ever planting season in the Gewocha Forest project! By June half a million seedlings were ready for planting in the two nurseries: Geray Tree Nursery, which is 100% financed by WeForest and The Hunger Project, and the government-owned Finoteselam Fruit Tree Nursery. The planting target for this year is 300 ha on degraded communal lands and 66.5 ha of agroforestry.

After careful preparation in the nurseries, the seedlings were ready to be planted once the rains started. Species being raised and planted here include *Acacia abyssinica*, *Faidherbia albida*, *Cordia africana*, *Albizia gummifera*, and *Cupressus lusitanica*. Watch a video about Geray Tree Nursery here.

Planting is taking place in Mana village on the communal land known as 'Farfar'. 63 community members are participating in the planting at the Farfar site. The total area to be restored here this planting season is 7.2 ha.

Here project manager Adamu M. is demonstrating how to plant seedlings, showing how big the pit should be and how to avoid damaging the roots. After planting, circular water harvesting structures will protect the seedlings during the rainy season and store water for future dry periods.

Mr Habesh, the village head, told us how the community is standing together to restore Gewocha Forest for a better future for their children, mindful of the mistakes made by their grandparents. "Gewocha Forest gives us food, shade, water, feed for our livestock and bees, and much more. We will save it; it's not too late," he said.

How do we know our restored forests are growing and making an impact?

Every hectare under restoration is mapped with GPS points to generate polygons (areas on a map) that are assigned to sponsors. Permanent monitoring plots are established in our sites and our forestry and science teams conduct surveys to monitor progress of biomass growth, tree density, survival rate and species diversity, among other indicators. Where social impacts are also critical, we measure socio-economic indicators such as the number of individuals or families directly benefiting, people trained, and income generated from forest-friendly livelihood activities.

Please visit our **Why and How** webpage for more information.

WeForest
Making Earth Cooler

You'll receive an annual update in March. Meanwhile, stay up-to-date with our interactive **Gewocha Forest map**, and check out the **photos** on Flickr.