



Desa'a Forest Landscape Restoration Project

Mid-Year Impact Report
January - June 2025



Tigray, Ethiopia
Eastern Afromontane
Biodiversity Hotspot



Timeline:
2018 - 2030



Main implementing partner:
WeForest Ethiopia



Targeted ecosystem: **Dry Afromontane Forest**
Biodiversity hotspot: **Eastern Afromontane**



Desa'a Forest
#6236

Despite very dry weather at the start of the year, restoration and livelihoods work made good progress.

Activity update



Improving forest governance and stewardship

- The restoration **management plan** continued to be implemented.
- Two additional villages (Era and Kelisha) received support for **forest guards**.
- **280 community members, experts and staff of local and regional offices** participated in project planning meetings.
- Experts from Tigray Bureau of Agriculture and Natural Resources (TBoANR) and the Department of Livestock visited livelihood programme sites.
- WeForest joined a new platform created by TBoANR, set up to share information and experiences in forest development among NGOs.



Restoring and conserving at-risk forests

- **503,000 seedlings** of olive (*Olea europaea*), juniper (*Juniperus procera*) and acacia (*Acacia saligna*) were grown in our five nursery sites, ready to be planted in the 2025 planting season, starting in July.
- **80kg of seeds** were directly sown, mainly composed of acacia trees (*Vachellia abyssinica* and *Vachellia nilotica*) and tree-lucern (*Cytisus proliferus*).
- **68,500 planted seedlings** were maintained through watering and mulching.
- **19,910 trees** were maintained through pruning. 100 households each received 40kg of the byproduct, to be used as firewood.

Hayelom Village May 2025



Case study

Abraha (pictured) received a solar lamp from WeForest last year. Before this, her family relied on light from the fire at night, which impacted their health. A side benefit of having a sustainable, reliable and safe solar light is that her children are now able to study in the evening, allowing them to help Abraha with livestock management in daylight hours.



Hawile Village May 2025

Case study

Amlisha (pictured) and her husband Mohamed started growing apple seedlings in 2021, their first experience of cultivating apple crops. To Amlisha's surprise, the four seedlings provided by WeForest started to produce fruit within three years, motivating the couple to plant another 14 seedlings in 2024. They currently harvest up to 4kgs of apples per tree planted in 2021, used for family consumption, and have plans to expand the apple farm and start selling fruits.



Introducing forest-friendly livelihoods

- **258 households** received training on chicken rearing.
- **225 households** received training on improved sheep production management.
- **769 sheep** were distributed to 217 female-headed households.
- **2570 pullets (young hens)** were distributed to 257 households.
- **1000 energy-efficient Tikil stoves** were produced and made ready for distribution.



Conserving soil and water

- Soil and water conservation work continued hand-in-hand with government bodies and communities. This included the building of:
 - **234,000 microbasins**
 - **3500m³ of check-dams**
 - **Over 200km of stone and soil bunds**
 - **30km of deep trenches**
 - **91 half-moon structures.**
- **5000 local people contributed 61,922 days of labor** to soil and water conservation activities.



Monitoring, evaluation, research and learning

- **Surveys** on water infiltration, ground water potential and discharge were conducted as part of the project mid-line assessment.
- **Study** on the impact of forest and landscape restoration on water led by Mekelle University continued, developing two technical reports and two draft research manuscripts.



Kalamin Village
May 2025

Case study

Tekle (pictured) owns 0.25 hectares of land, which in the past has failed to satisfy even a quarter of her family's basic needs. In 2018, she received 10 hens as part of WeForest's first livelihood packages. Sadly, due to a widespread poultry disease, all but two chickens were lost. In order to protect her livelihood, Tekle quickly decided to sell her remaining hens and buy a small sheep.

Through her consistent care of the sheep, using forest-friendly grass harvests and tree fodder, and three additional sheep and training provided by WeForest in 2021, she was able to produce a flock of 14 sheep. Selling two rams last year created enough income to support her family and to increase her savings, which she plans on putting towards the purchase of a cow.

Looking forward

Activities for July - December 2025 include:

- Ensuring that the local bylaw for Era and Kelisha villages has been validated and has entered into effect.
- Planting 350,000 seedlings, 90% in the buffer zone and 10% in the core zone.
- Continuing support for forest protection and guarding and five nurseries.
- Harvesting 5 hectares of grass.
- Distributing 100,000 seedlings of multipurpose trees to 2000 households.
- Continuing delivery of training on livelihood packages and distributing 2500 chickens, 600 bee colonies, 850 sheep and 3000 apple and Gesho seedlings.
- Distributing the 1000 energy-efficient stoves already produced.
- Distributing solar lamps to 400 households.
- Continuing to build water harvesting and conservation structures.
- Collecting survival data of trees planted in previous years.
- Conducting an annual income monitoring survey.

Stay up-to-date

-  Visit the [project page](#)
-  Explore the [interactive map](#)
-  Check out the project [photo album](#)
-  Look out for the annual project report in 2026

