



ETHIOPIA

AMHARA

NOVEMBER 2018



WeForest

Making Earth Cooler



It's in the hands of the local people

In the Amhara region, like in many areas of Africa, farmers mostly see forests as a resource for timber and fuel wood, resulting in high levels of deforestation and severe soil erosion. We work together with them, to improve their livelihoods with alternatives that do not destroy the forest. They then become our best local ambassadors to protect the forest in the long term.



Photo: Dominic van Corstanje / WeForest

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SCIENCE-BASED MEASUREMENTS AND VERIFICATION

- Financial audit:** May 2018
- Forestry survey:** August 2018
- Socio-economic survey:** June 2018



LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Trees funded: 1 365 186

Hectares directly restored: 549 ha

Total area positively impacted: 46. 984 ha

In total, 16 unique tree species are planted, amongst which the endangered *Millettia ferruginea* and *Albezia gummifera*

Methodologies used:

Framework planting: the planting of species in ways that promote the natural succession of the forest.

Agroforestry: the integration of trees on farms and in the agricultural landscape in ways that sustain productive, profitable, and healthy land use systems.

Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration: Managing naturally grown trees in farmland and communal lands using indigenous techniques.



Embule Tihsas Dar (Love nature nursery) employees at work.
Photo: WeForest



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The project currently employs 44 permanent staff members, working as forest experts, site facilitators and nursery workers. Furthermore, 550 casual workers are in charge of the nursery support, planting and site maintenance.

This is a very big increase compared to 6 months ago, where these numbers were 35 permanent staff members and 91 casual workers.

440 farmers (of which 74 female) have received professional training, and 4,969 (586 female and 4383 male) have received awareness creation and planting and post planting training for local farmers

The amount of individuals with an increased income has almost tripled over the past six months to 3,502.

SHORT STORIES FROM THE FIELD

The tree is never far away from the seedling

WeForest has specifically chosen to establish the local nurseries close to the planting sites. Not only are the seedlings this way easier to plant, it is also easier to produce the required amount and species, it creates local jobs, reduces transportation cost, and reduces the risk of damage to the seedlings during the transportation.

Improved trees improve lives

Sileshi Leges (age 42) has three children, of which two of them are old enough to attend school. He is one of the farmers that participates in the agroforestry project and as a result he now planted 160 *Rahamnes prinoids* “Gesho” and improved Avocado trees in his home garden (0.25 ha).

Farmer Mengist Seneshaw Mehari also grows the improved avocado trees as well as different vegetables for household consumption in the land next to his house. Next to this he started planting castor oil trees. The money that he earns with selling the castor oil, he uses to buy the school books for his children. And Mengist Seneshaw Mehari is not only our ‘model agroforestry farmer’ for the project, he is also the village facilitator. This means that he is contributing a lot to mobilize the community and participates and facilitates the community training programs of the projects.



Community at Debrekelemu collecting their Avocado trees to plant at their homegarden area
Photo :WeForest



Planting of *Millitia ferrugunia* seedlings at laydamot village site wetebet nefasamo. Photo :WeForest



Training how to make transition beehives with locally available materials. Photo: WeForest

Technical training on participatory forest management

157 farmers and 75 local forest experts and natural resource managers participated in a two-day intensive training on sustainable forest management and stewardship. Topics talked about were participatory degraded land restoration, enrichment planting, Farmers Managed natural regeneration, post planting management and site maintenance.

UPCOMING 6 MONTHS


- Capacitating nurseries for 2019 planting program and increase their number
- Detailed activity planning for 2019 project period
- Capacity building trainings on livelihood programs
- Community training on income generation activities
- Establish income generating activities such as beekeeping
- Site selection, mapping, and monitoring plot establishment for the 2019 planting period
- Experience sharing visits among the different villages
- Monitoring and evaluation of the 2017 and 2018 planting seedlings survival rate counting
- Awareness creation training on forest conservation, management and sustainable utilization among community members
- Capacity building for experts (GIS and forestry data collection and processing training)

MEET WUBALEM KASAHUN



Photo :WeForest

Wubalem Kasahun studies general agriculture in the Machakel district and is now in the last year of her three year course. She lives at her grandparents house, who she also helps with all sorts of activities next to her studies. As a future agriculture expert, she is enthusiastic to learn and demonstrate agroforestry practices at her grandparents backyard (total land size of 0.25 ha) and test the eight improved Avocado trees and the 50 Rahamnes prinoids seedlings she got from the project. Wubalem said *“even though the improved avocado requires intensive management such as watering, weeding and freeing them from any diseases, the results are really good and it is worth it”*. She has also promised to teach the neighbours and beyond about use of trees and their management.



WeForest is an international non-profit that specializes in mobilizing companies to restore the World's forests and embark their stakeholders into a long-term journey towards environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, we need to start decreasing our global emissions by 2020 and achieve carbon neutrality by the second half of this century. While reducing carbon emissions is critical, research suggests that even if carbon dioxide emissions came to a sudden halt, the carbon dioxide already in the Earth's atmosphere could continue to warm our planet for hundreds of years. The challenge is to reduce future carbon emissions and actively remove the excess carbon from our atmosphere.

Forests are known as the best technology for that: they are an amazing carbon sink.

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THANK YOU

