

ETHIOPIA

SERET EXCLOSURE

DECEMBER 2018



WeForest

Making Earth Cooler

In Tigray, a joint re-greening effort of the government, community and NGO's works to stop land degradation, protect natural resources and improve food production. It does so mostly using "exclosures": areas where livestock is not allowed, to rehabilitate degraded land.

WeForest works with this movement through the enriching of encroached exclosures using native trees. The project works in close collaboration with the local community and supports them with trainings on natural resource management programs, income generating activities and providing material support.

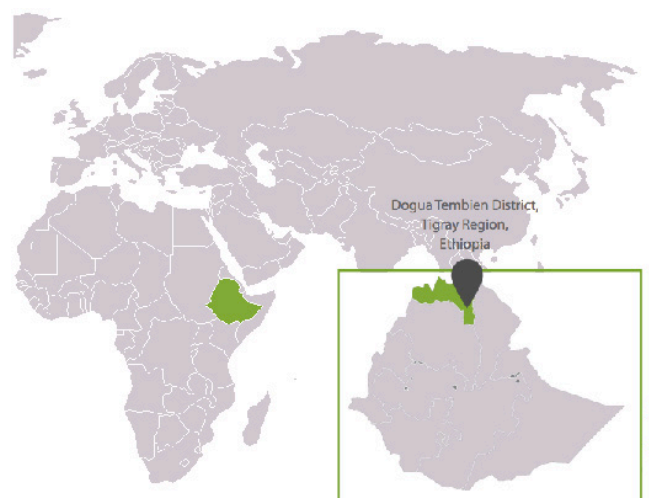
The project specially targets landless youth and women groups by engaging them in income earning scheme activities such as working with the beekeeping cooperatives and through paid field work activities.



Photo: Dominic van Corstanje / WeForest

SCIENCE-BASED MEASUREMENTS AND VERIFICATION

- Forestry survey: August 2018
- Socio-economic survey: August 2018
- Carbon measurements: May 2018



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LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

Trees planted: 64 445

Hectares directly restored: 56 ha

Methodologies used:

Assisted natural regeneration: to enhance the natural regeneration processes of forest restoration, encouraging the natural establishment and subsequent growth of indigenous forest trees, while preventing any factors that might harm them.

Framework planting: planting of species in a way that promotes the natural succession of exclosures or forests.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Currently, 13 tree species are planted across the intervention site, including important native trees (e.g. *Olea europaea*, *Cordia africana*, *Acacia abyssinica*, *Croton macrostacus*, *Acacia polyacantha*), valuable fuelwood and timber species (e.g., *Acacia decurrens*, *Grevillia robusta*, *Acacia etbica*, and *Cupressus lustanica*) and fodder shrub species (e.g. *Chamaecytisus palmensis*).



CARBON SINK

The total CO2 estimate are 7 tonnes/ha.

We are expecting to reach 392 tonnes per ha after 20 years of tree growth



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Currently, 54 people are directly long term employed through their work at the nursery, guarding, seed collection, vegetation and soil monitoring activities.

459 farmers (287 female and 172 male) report an increased income through the project. This number has tripled compared to six months ago.

Furthermore does the project target two honey producer cooperatives with a total of 40 people.



Photo: WeForest

SHORT STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Income generating program:

Young and often landless community members find themselves forced to either travel a long distance to find a daily paid job, or illegally harvest forest resources and bring them to the nearby town or market to sell. Therefore, within the project's livelihood improvement program framework, WeForest together with its partner BoARD has established two local honey cooperatives (Seret cooperative and Walta cooperative). Currently, each cooperative has 20 members, of which 5 are women.

The project supports the cooperatives with materials (10 beehives for each cooperative) and through training on bee management and product processing, which includes training on bee forage selection and management, how to transfer bees from traditional beehives to modern beehives, how to make wax cake and how to harvest clean honey.



The Acacia in the facilitation role

The *Acacia abyssinica* Hochst. Ex Benth. is a tree we really like to see around our Exclosure as it is a big help in our degraded land restoration efforts. The Acacia can grow up to 20 meters high and the typical umbrella shaped crown gives good shade, which very useful for the newly generated native tries. It's furthermore very resistant to drought and grows well on degraded lands. This is why the acacia plays a great role for a rapid rehabilitation effort of the degraded Exclosure. It also makes for good fuel wood, the flowers are very attractive to honeybees, leaves and fruit pods are good fodder for milk cows and they attract all kinds of different birds.

But that's not all, the tree also serves as a 'soil conditioner', by providing much needed nitrogen to the soil and neighbouring plants.

Needless to say that we are very happy with this tree, and WeForest is now working together the community to promote direct seed sowing techniques for this species to fill the open gaps in the Exclosure.

UPCOMING 6 MONTHS

- Capacitating nurseries for 2019 planting program and increase their number if funding 2019 activity planning
- Establish additional livelihood programs such as poultry and beekeeping
- Post-planting management activities
- Honey processing trainings for two cooperatives established in Seret and Walta
- Farmers entrepreneurship and business management training
- Seed collection for direct seed sowing activity in Seret exclosure
- Survival count for 2017 and 2018 planted seedlings

MEET ABREHA REDA, GUARD WITH WEFORREST



Abreha Reda (age 53), lives in the village of Seret and is one of WeForest's local employees at Seret Exclosure. A retired former soldier, he has 8 children, of which four are attending school. He feeds them from the small piece of land the family owns (about 0.5 ha) and the annual income he gets from his land and the selling of his livestock is about 536 USD: not enough to fulfill the needs of his family. Therefore, he used to travel long distances (sometimes up to 400 km from his village) to find off farm work.

Since WeForest launched a project at Seret Exclosure, Abreha Reda and his three colleagues were granted a long term contracted job with WeForest, with which he earns 400 USD annually.

He is responsible for protecting the Seret Exclosure from illegal wood extraction and livestock destruction. He is also teaching the community on how strict participatory Exclosure management is positively changing the environment.

Abreha Reda is very happy with his job :“ Now my family doesn't expect me to travel long distances to earn additional money to cover school fees and other household expenses that my family badly needs. The crop harvested from my small land will be used to make bread and “enjera” and with the money I receive monthly from WeForest I can buy my salt, spices, cooking oils, children clothes, school fee, family medicines and others; I am happy now. As a guard of this Exclosure I now also teach my friends and the whole community to keep our Exclosure more green and full of life”

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

