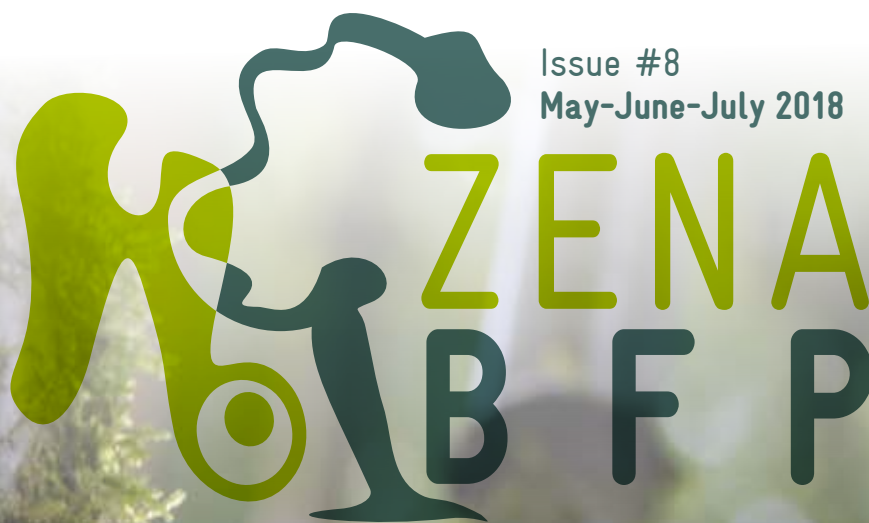


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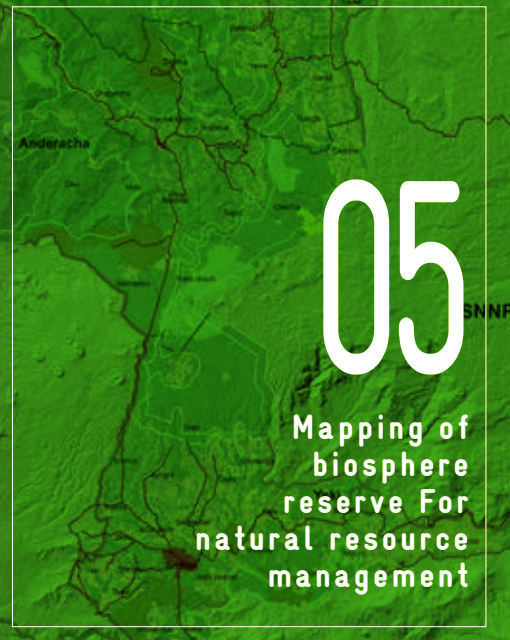
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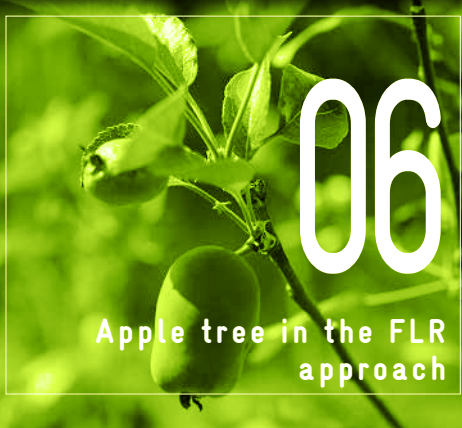
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**BEAT
PLASTIC
POLLUTION**



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**



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Ethiopia celebrates the World Environment Day



World Environment Day was established 45 years ago. On June 5th, Ethiopia celebrated this day for the 25th time. This year, official celebration was held in the Tigray Region with the theme, "Beat plastic pollution".

A field visit to Abreha Weatsibeha Kebele was carried out as part of this celebration.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change held a panel discussion in Mekelle. During this panel discussion, UNEP presented some surprising figures related to plastic pollution: "In the last decade we produced more plastic than in the whole last century. Every year the world uses 500 billion plastic bags. From this at least 8 million tons end up in the ocean. 50 percent of the plastic we use is single use or disposable. We buy 1 million plastic bottles every minute and equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute. Plastic make up 10% of all the waste we generate".

The famous Abahawes (man of the fire) presented their watershed management and land restoration. In Wukro city Stadium, Dr. Gemedo Dale spoke to the participants about environmental deterioration caused by plastic pollution. He gave recognition to individuals and institutions making efforts to protect and recover their environment. The Tigray regional State and Kileta Awulalo Woreda received a car and a motorbike respectively from the Ministry.

Similarly, Arba Minch town celebrated the day, with a panel discussion about the impact of plastic pollution in the lake ecosystems (Lake Abbaye and Lake Chamo). In Arba Minch, 10,000 tree seedlings have been planted in one of the catchments of Lake Chamo. This was to support the mitigation of the heavy siltation of lake Chamo.

Land Use Planning Validation Workshop

Local stakeholder support is crucial for successful forest landscape restoration. In addition, land use plans (LUP) need to be simple, local and comprehensive. Land use planning has been ongoing in two kebeles in Amhara and in Southern Nation and Nationalities People's Region since November 2017. The LUP has two phases, the 1st being a general LUP for a woreda in each region (Konta special woreda in SNNPR and Borena woreda in Amhara) and the 2nd being a detailed LUP for one kebele from each Woreda

(Yora and Jelisa Libanos respectively).

Three workshops, one at regional level and two at woreda level have been organized to communicate the results of the Land Use Plan.

During the workshop in Bahir Dar, guidelines used during land use planning were presented to regional stakeholders. The guideline will be used for similar LUP development at kebele level. Two further workshops were held in Ameya (SNNPR)



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and Mekane Selam (Amhara) to validate the results of the Kebele-LUP, developed with the participation of community representatives. During the workshop the communities pointed out the importance of the stakeholder's participation in the implementation of what has been proposed in the LUP.



Workshop on quality of tree seeds



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trees for Ethiopian forestry. The workshop took place on June 21st to 22nd in Addis Ababa. Participants included regional representatives of the forest sector, private seed entrepreneurs, seed experts from different organizations, and representatives of three seed centers from Amhara, Oromia and SNNPR.

The workshop addressed the importance of the use of good quality seeds. Quality seed is crucial for healthy forest stands. During the workshop, improved nursery management through new technologies, identification of most requested tree seeds, maintenance of seed source and collection methods were discussed. The members of the workshop also exchanged thoughts on the draft of a new law concerning seed quality. The workshop was opened by Dr Abyot, the new Director

General of EEFRI. One of the presenters, Dr Araya, mentioned that during the past five years, the provision of seed increased from 8,000 kg to 90,200 kg due to an increment in demand, but the quality of the seeds still needs to be improved.

The presentations were followed by a discussion about the demand and supply of tree seed varieties, how the availability of tree seeds was communicated to users and how the regulation stresses on adulteration.

Currently, 90% of the seed suppliers do not pass through quarantine, which affects the quality of the seeds. Therefore, EEFRI and other stakeholders are working on setting standards for seed quality and providing certification for quality seed suppliers.

The

Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI) organized a two-day workshop on certification of seed sources and the establishment of a "tree-seed quality system" in Ethiopia. The main purpose is to improve seed quality of indigenous

International Forest Policy gathers experiences in Ethiopia

The African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) is a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of land in Africa by 2030. Ethiopia pledged to restore 22 Million ha in total. The initiative, decided in Paris in December 2015 by the African Authorities, aims at improved food security, climate change resilience and mitigation, and combat rural poverty. The GIZ led program "International Forest Policy" has chosen four countries to showcase their support for AFR100 activities: Togo, Madagascar, Cameroon and Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, IWP works together with the Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), the AFR100 focal person at the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate

Change and the Biodiversity and Forestry program (BFP). FLR pilots reforestation with the aim of creating forests as part of future value chains (timber and non-timber forest products, ecosystem based services etc.).

The University of Arba Minch and German based Succow foundation carried out a study on the degradation of the catchments tributary to the Lakes Abaya and Chamo. The study shows that concrete and urgent actions should be taken to safeguard Lake Chamo from dying through siltation (lake Abbaye is



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already technically dead). The study identified areas which contribute to the sedimentation of Lake Chamo. Hence, IWP is focusing on rehabilitating those areas having ordered 68,500 seedlings to cover about 40 ha of land. The project aims to purchase seedlings from multiple providers in order to encourage private business like nursery management.



Mapping of biosphere reserve for natural resource management

In order to effectively manage the various natural resources of biosphere reserves and to monitor impacts on both biodiversity and rural livelihoods, the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is recommended for the identification of different vegetation and land use types, critical sites for soil, water and biodiversity management, infrastructural development and for the mapping and analysis of related spatial ecological and socio-economic data.

In order to effectively manage natural resources of biosphere reserves and to monitor the impacts on both biodiversity and rural livelihoods, the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is recommended, allowing the identification of different vegetation and land use types.

In particular, the visualization and analysis of changes in natural forest areas, agricultural land use, human

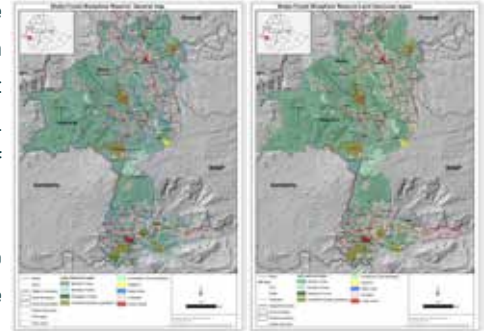
settlements and infrastructure inside or adjacent to biosphere reserves can provide valuable information on current and potential human impact on natural resources as a basis for the planning of site-specific management interventions.

As there are no detailed and up to date land cover maps available for the Yayu and Sheka Biosphere Reserves, one has to rely on the difficult, costly and time consuming task of terrestrial identification of critical areas for rehabilitation such as degraded forests and slopes with heavy soil erosion, or protection such as natural forests in the vicinity of approaching farmland, roads or growing settlements. This will also limit the extent and effectiveness of monitoring as only a few sites can be visited in a given time.

The Unique-NABU Consortium, working with BFP, is currently producing up-to-date land use and land cover maps for both the Yayu and Sheka Biosphere



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Reserves showing the distribution of different vegetation and land use types, settlements, road categories, biosphere reserve zone boundaries, large scale investment areas, PFM sites as well as critical priority sites for conservation and watershed management.

Satellite images were printed and taken to the field for verification on the ground. In addition to the map, hand held GPS and a camera were used during ground-truthing. During the verification, suspected areas which are not accessible were confirmed by local experts with regard to the vegetation cover types in that particular area.

General Management Plan (GMP) – an essential tool for Awash National Park

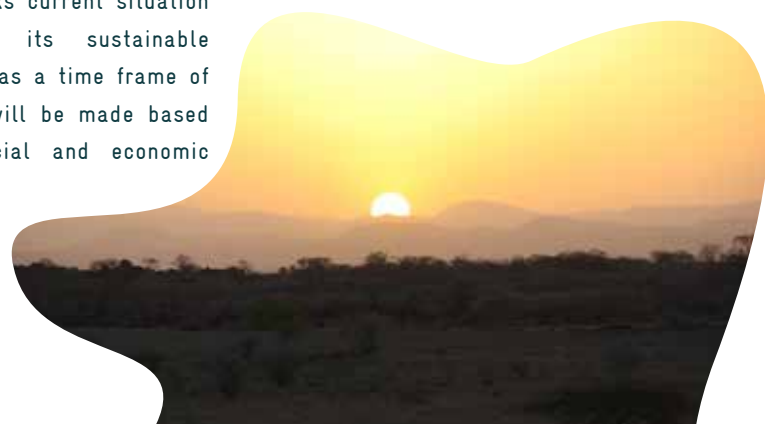
Established in 1964, Awash National is one of the first National Parks in Ethiopia. The park hosts a range of ecological, cultural, archaeological, geological and economical resources. However, the park is currently experiencing losses to its biodiversity and wildlife daily and is on the verge of irreversible damage. Research has estimated the potential value of the park to be close to 400 Million Birr per year, counting services like tourism, water sources, impact on local climate etc.

With the help of an experienced expert, EWCA experts stationed at their

headquarters and the park have developed a general management plan. Local stakeholders – authorities, communities, the city of Awash, pastoralists etc. – have also been involved in its development. It is hoped the implementation of the plan will improve the parks current situation and contribute to its sustainable existence. The plan has a time frame of 10 years, revisions will be made based on the natural, social and economic dynamics.



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Apple tree in the FLR approach – a success in Borena Saynt

Within the past year, Borena Saynt National Park Administration has provided 5,000 apple tree seedlings and training to farmers living around the park. The main purpose of this action was to improve the income of local communities and to support Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) using an Agro-forestry approach.

MEFCC and BFP jointly implement regular monitoring at intervention sites. The monitoring team visited two apple growers in different kebeles. The report shows that in one site 94% of the planted seedlings survived, thanks to the capacity building

measures implemented.

On a second site, farmers grow apple trees in an intercropping system on terraced land. The farmer was motivated by the newly planted apple seedlings, as they are not being damaged by animals. The survival rate looks promising. The farmers interviewed by the monitoring team also expressed their satisfaction for the technical support provided by Borena woreda experts to improve growth performance. The experts from Borena woreda have participated in a "Training of Trainers" course supported by BFP.

The monitoring team highlighted this activity as a good FLR approach generating income for poor farmers who are looking for diversification of income sources and livelihood improvement.

Peer-to-peer training provided by certified scouts

During 2016 and 2017, 109 scouts from five different national parks received training on law enforcement. The training was provided by EWCA with support of BFP. The last training included a "Training of Trainers" part for advanced level participants. Nine rangers of selected parks obtained the attribute of trainers

for basic law enforcement training. These nine scouts were divided in teams of three from Nech Sar, Borena Sayint and Chebera Churchura national parks.

In the past months, law enforcement training was organized by the three mentioned national parks with the financial support of BFP. A total of 60



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scouts were trained in basic tactical and self-defence skills, team organization, planning and patrolling, negotiation and communication ethics with communities and guests. For the first time, training was delivered by Ethiopian experts, representing an achievement in the form of skills transfer from abroad.



Wildlife experts in SNNPR acquired ecological monitoring skills



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Ecological monitoring is a systematic and repetitive measurement of a set of ecological variables at one or more locations over an extended period of time. It can provide advanced warning of undesirable ecological change and thus allow

managers to adopt corrective measures.

With the support of GIZ-BFP, the Bureau of Culture and Tourism from Southern Nation and Nationality People Region (SNNPR) conducted ecological monitoring training for regional and protected areas wildlife experts in June 2018. The 35 experts that participated in the training were introduced to designing,

developing and executing ecological and threat monitoring plans and activities in protected areas.

The training followed a participatory and practical methodology, which included theoretical concepts on ecological and threat monitoring, group work and, a field visit and practical exercise in Loka Abaya National Park.



Advanced training for Bee keepers



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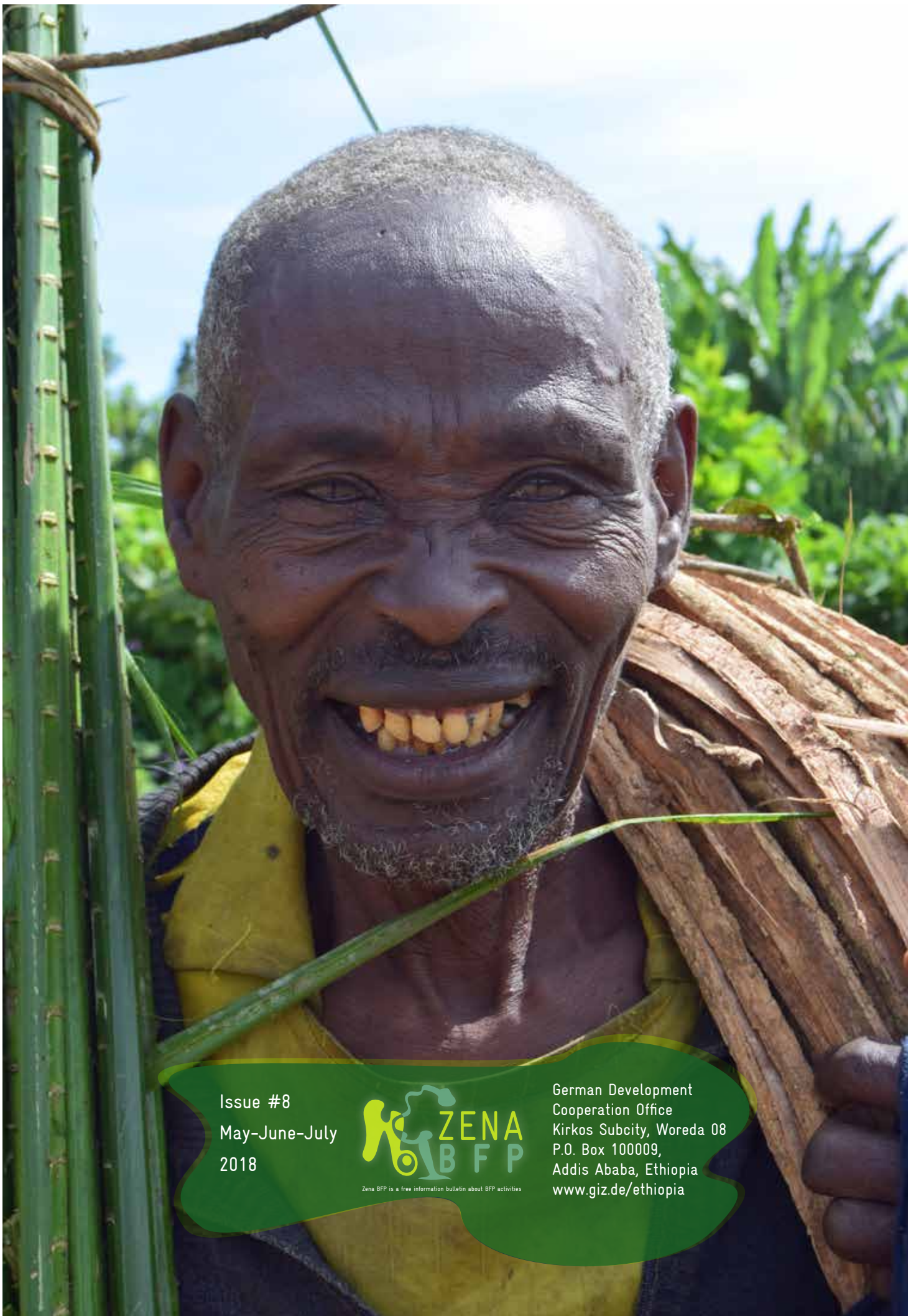
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Since 2017, GIZ-BFP has been supporting apiculture groups in different implementation sites through local woreda technical experts. The approach applied is to facilitate additional income generation activities in exchange for observing protected areas and forests. At the same time, it is an incentive for tree planting. A total of 399 beneficiaries (344 male and 65 female) are so far supported by the project with equipment and training. From June 6th to 8th new advanced trainings were conducted for 67 bee

keepers. The training covered different topics, including pre-harvesting quality control, honey harvesting and processing techniques, collection of other bee products (wax, propolis, pollen etc.), bee transferring techniques and simple queen rearing techniques. The training also includes seasonal management of hives, with the support of a honey floral calendar which help to plan the necessary activities.





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