



*If we take care of the Earth,
the Earth will take care of us.*

Forum for Environment (FfE)

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National news

Quick drying cement on the way to Gibe III

Addis Ababa, Fortune- The first shipment of 10,000tn of slag cement mixed with fly ash out of 150,000tn to be used for the foundation work of Gibe III dam bought at a cost of around 12.3 million dollars from Italy is to arrive by the end of this month. The cement needed was a type that is different from ordinary cement, it needed to have a very low heat of hydration when mixed, making it dry faster and become solid. The 243 meter high dam, tallest in Africa, requires a strong foundation that can carry its weight and last a long time.

(For the full article
www.addisfortune.com September 11,
2011)

Elephants in Babilie increasing

Addis Ababa, Fortune quoting The Ethiopian Herald- The number of Elephants existing in Babilie Elephant Sanctuary has been increasing from time to time, according to the sanctuary office. Their number has now increased to 400 from only 300 from three years ago.

(For the full article
www.addisfortune.com September 11,
2011)

Honey sweetens earnings by 62mln br

Addis Ababa, Fortune quoting The Ethiopian Herald- Over 11,420 farmers living in nine weredas of Oromia Regional State obtained close to 62 million br in income from the sale of honey in 2010/11 fiscal year, according to the zonal office. The revenues were collected from the sale 1.2 million kg of honey. The farmers utilized 164,660kg traditional and modern beehives to produce the stated amount of honey.

(For the full article
www.addisfortune.com September 11,
2011)

Clean water expansion

Addis Ababa, Fortune quoting The Ethiopian Herald- The construction and maintenance of water facilities were executed in Guraghe Zone of SNNP state at a cost of 30mln br the past Ethiopian fiscal year, according the zonal office. Close to 270 water facilities in rural and urban areas of the zone, whose facilities will benefit 129,600 people, were constructed and repaired in the reported period.

(For the full article
www.addisfortune.com September 11,
2011)

International news

No substitute for virgin forest

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- The crucial role that virgin forests play in conserving nature is confirmed in a study that spans the tropics. An international team of researchers analyzed more than 100 existing studies comparing wildlife in forests that had been modified and those that had not. Nature, notably birds, does much better in virgin tracts, they report. The researchers conclude in the journal Nature: "When it comes to maintaining tropical biodiversity, there is no substitute for primary forests". The study feeds into one of the major debates going on in environmental circles: whether it is better to exploit lots of land relatively gently, or to develop intensively in some areas and leave others as wild as possible. "Primary forests are truly unique and have exceptional value for biodiversity," said study co-leader Luke Gibson from the National University of Singapore. "So if you can minimize the destruction of primary forests, then that might be the best strategy for tropical biodiversity. And if you have to use agricultural intensification of areas that are already used for agricultural production instead of focusing more on other forms of agriculture that attempt to maintain some levels of biodiversity, such as agrofrestry, that strategy might be more effective for maintaining the highest levels of biodiversity overall," he told BBC News.

(Source
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14912813>)

Climate change boon to UK seafood

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- UK waters may become more productive fishing grounds as climate change brings new species in from the south, according to researchers. Fish such as red mullet, hake and sole have become more abundant in the last 30 years, as the waters have warmed. But established favorites such as cod and haddock may be on the wane. The findings come from an analysis of trawl data going back to 1980, covering about 100 million fish caught, and is published in Current Biology journal. "This is the first attempt that's brought together many different datasets," said project leader Steve Simpson from Bristol University. "People have been reluctant to piece together data from lots of different surveys because there are some tough challenges there. "But we spent about a year doing it, and it really gives us the first comprehensive look at [the effects of climate change on] fish in European shelf waters." The relatively shallow waters of the European continental shelf include those around the UK and Ireland, spanning the North Sea, English Channel and Irish Sea.

(Source
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14930989>)

Many thanks for reading and see you in the next issue!

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