



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

Forum for Environment (FfE)

Greenbites: Environmental News

Issue Number 84

October 03, 2011

National news

Bale Mountains National Park to raise income

Addis Ababa, Fortune- The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation (EWCA), is going to implement a new business plan in Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) to improve the sufficiency level of the protected area and with the aim of making it generate two fold of its previous revenue. The business plan has two basic strategies which are designed to collect money. The market based strategy is a financial option which will work supplying products and services to tourists. The non-market based strategy is a financial option which is done by collecting money from third party donations, grants, investments and additional governmental budgets. Both of the strategies are classified into revenue and non-revenue sharing. The business plan is prepared by EWCA, Frankfurt Zoological Society, German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the organization for the sustainable development of the protected area system of Ethiopia (SDPASE).

(For the full article
www.addisfortune.com September 18,
2011)

Ethiopian Government Starts Agricultural Agency to Double Crop Production

Bloomberg- Ethiopia started an agricultural agency that plans to help double production in the economy's biggest industry over the next five years, said Wonderad Mandefro, minister of state for agriculture. The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency, or EATA, is modelled on economic development organizations in South Korea and Taiwan and will be overseen by a council chaired by Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, Wonderad said in an interview in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, yesterday. "In the past five years, the country has made significant progress in sustaining agricultural production," Wonderad said. "Compared to the potential, it's still the tip of the iceberg." Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous nation, is the continent's biggest coffee grower. A five-year government plan to wean the Horn of Africa country off foreign aid aims to boost agricultural production by 14.9 percent annually. The industry accounts for 45 percent of economic output and employs about 80 percent of the population, according to Wonderad. The agency was created after the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was asked by Meles in 2008 to assess an Ethiopian program that provides support and equipment for farmers using so-called extension workers, Wonderad said. In

partnership with international donors and agricultural-research organizations, the foundation was subsequently asked to assess other aspects of the industry, including irrigation, soil fertility and marketing. These will now be key areas of focus for EATA. The Seattle-based non-profit organization is providing technical expertise to EATA and may support the agency financially, said Roy Steiner, deputy director of its agricultural development program.

(Source
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-28/ethiopian-government-starts-agricultural-agency-to-double-crop-production.html>)

Chemoga-Yeda hydro power plant delayed

Addis Ababa, Capital- The construction of Chemoga-Yeda hydro power plant is sluggish due to lack of finances. The project will be carried out in two stages and expected to generate 278mw. Officials from EEPCo said that the delay of finance from Chinese Bank is the main reason for the delay. The Chemoga-Yeda is the main factor for the delay of the finance. The river is one of the tributaries for Abay River and downstream countries are not delighted and have been lobbying the financier to delay the fund, according to EEPCo's official.

(For the full article
www.capitalethiopia.com September 25, 2011)

International news

Forestry funding assessment system 'ineffective'

British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)- The system of how schemes to protect forest biodiversity and people in poor nations are assessed is ineffective, a study has concluded. Community Forest Management (CFM) schemes have attracted billions of pounds to protect forested areas. The study found that data on schemes' carbon storage was "patchy", while information on CFM programmes' impacts on local communities was even worse. The findings will appear in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* journal. "In the past, the model has been to protect areas at a [national] level, which meant the government set up a protected area and managed it," said co-author Andrew Pullin from Bangor University, Wales. But, he explained, this approach had led to a number of problems. "Local people were resenting the implementation of a protected area because, perhaps, it used to be theirs and then it belonged to the government," he told BBC News. "It was possible that they were being prevented from using the areas as they formerly had done and it was not benefiting them. Therefore, they were probably not respecting it or looking after it in a stewardship way." CFM programmes were developed as an alternative model, and involved governments devolving a certain amount of decision-making power to the local communities. "So local community committees have some say in how an area is managed and the benefits that local

people can get from it," Prof Pullin observed. This could include harvesting food or timber at levels that did not long-term damage, with the theory being that if local people benefited from the scheme then they would be more likely to conserve it. "A lot of global funding agencies have, quite understandably, have bought into that idea and feel that it is a far more ethical way of donating money for the protection of areas," he added.

(Source

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15149789>)

African forest policies crowned best in world

Africa News- African governance was praised at UN headquarters in New York when the winners of the 2011 Future Policy Award were announced: Rwanda's National Forest Policy was proclaimed the winner of the 2011 Future Policy Award and The Gambia's Community Forest Policy took home a Silver Award. The prize is awarded annually by the World Future Council, a foundation that brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. The jury which decided on the winning policies was composed of experts on sustainability and forests from all five continents. Runners-up were forest policies from Bhutan, Nepal and Switzerland. The US Lacey Act's 2008 amendment, which bans the import of illegally harvested wood, received the second Silver Award. Rwanda has sought not only to make its forests a national priority, but has also used them

as a platform to revolutionize its stances on women's rights and create a healthy environment, explains Wangari Maathai, Founder of the Green Belt Movement, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Honorary World Future Councillor. The Gambia's Forest Department was one of the first administrations in Africa to introduce a community forest management approach. It has managed to achieve a net forest cover increase of 8.5 percent over the last two decades and is now being rewarded for it. The jury has voted for two African policies that empower people, says Alexandra Wandel, Director of the World Future Council.

(Source

http://www.africanews.com/site/African_forest_policies_crowned_best_in_world/list_messages/39845)

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

Greenbites Compiled By:

**Messay Sintayehu (Mr)
Forum for Environment (FfE)**

T: +251 115 521015

F: +251 115 521034

P: 10386

E: masealem@gmail.com

W: www.ffe-ethiopia.org