



South West Forest and Landscape Grouping (SWFLG)

Wild Coffee Conservation through Participatory Forest Management: Communities and Government Institutions Capacity Building Project (WCC-PFM/CGICB)

Orientation and Review Workshop
on
Participatory Forest Management
(October, 2014 Mizan-Aman)



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Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association

University of HUDDERSFIELD



SWFLG is an informal grouping of organizations which are interested in the development of an ecologically sound and socio-economically sensitive approach to the management of the south west landscapes of Ethiopia. The members of the grouping to date are: University of Huddersfield (UK), Ethio-Wetlands & Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), and Sustainable Livelihood Action (SLA)/Wetland Action EEIG (the Netherlands). They have been partners in projects funded by the EU and several other international donors since 1996 and have built up specific expertise in the areas outlined above.

Other organizations are encouraged to join the Grouping.
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Executive Summary

The Wild Coffee Conservation by Participatory Forest Management, Communities and Government Institutions Capacity Building Project (WCC-PFM/CGICB) started in 2010 in Sheko Woreda. It is implemented by three parties: Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), an indigenous NGO in Ethiopia, Huddersfield University (UK) and Sustainable Livelihood Action (SLA) based in the Netherlands. Together they form the South West Forest and Landscape Grouping (SWFLG). In 2014 the project expanded its activities to three additional consolidation woredas: Guraferda, North Bench, and Yeki.

The project aims to contribute to the in-situ conservation of wild coffee biodiversity through the application of simplified PFM procedures. Participatory Forest Management (PFM) is one of the practical approaches used to maintain

forest cover while addressing the social and economic needs of the community.

Under PFM tenure, use rights and decision making is handed over to the community along with responsibility for sustainably managing the forest in line with forest management plans agreed with government. To work well PFM requires common understanding and trust between stakeholders. In order to facilitate this process a one-day PFM awareness raising workshop was organised for government partners (Zonal and Woreda level Cabinet members and experts) at Mizan-Aman in Bench-Maji Zone on October 4, 2014. In total 64 individuals participated including 4 women.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To increase the understanding of senior government members on PFM



- To raise awareness of the progress of the project
- To develop joint strategies and action plans to address the challenges faced during PFM implementation.

The main findings of the workshop were that:

- PFM is a government programme and this activity must be incorporated into the Woreda Agricultural Office routine activity plan and reporting;
- PFM involves legal devolution of forest management responsibility to the local community and recognition of secure community use rights;
- The community members are the key decision makers in PFM;
- The PFM groups are the beneficiaries of forest products which can be harvested sustainably – this rewards them for guarding and managing the forest;

- The government are beneficiaries of PFM as the burden of forest protection and management is taken up by communities; government is responsible for monitoring;
- PFM appears to have a very positive effect on communities' sense of responsibility and interests in maintaining the forest, in contrast to the situation with Core Forest Areas under the Sheka Biosphere Reserve;
- Supporting the establishment of PFM requires both capacity training and institutional development with Woreda Forest Management Associations and got-level branches as legal entities;
- Forest-based economic enterprises need to be developed to help make the forest pay its way and become a competitive land use which rewards communities for their PFM work, improves livelihoods and contributes to national development.



Introduction

The Wild Coffee Conservation by Participatory Forest Management (WCC-PFM) project started its operation in 2010 in Sheko Woreda in Bench Maji Zone. In 2014 the project expanded its activities to three additional consolidation woredas namely: Guraferda, North Bench, and Yeki. The project aims to contribute to the in-situ conservation wild coffee biodiversity through the application of simplified Participatory Forest Management (PFM) procedures.

PFM is one of the most practical approaches for maintaining forest cover while addressing the socio-economic needs of communities. Under PFM tenure, use rights and decision making is handed over to the community along with responsibility for sustainably managing the forest. The community can access selected forest products for their own use and for sale, adding to their income and improving livelihoods. PFM increases communities' appreciation of the value of the forest and their sense of ownership of it. In return communities take responsibility for managing the forest in a sustainable way.

PFM was first introduced in Ethiopia in 1996 with pilot projects in Adaba-Dodola and Chilimo with support from GTZ and Farm Africa respectively. PFM was

originally initiated with an emphasis on integrated development (land husbandry, alternative livelihoods). However, over time it has evolved to focus on ensuring more secure access rights to the forest for communities, enabling them to develop forest-based enterprises and add value to the forest.

Since PFM is a relatively new approach it requires common understanding and trust among stakeholders. To this effect the project organized one day workshop in Bench-Maji Zone at Mizan-Aman on 4th October, 2014 for government partners (Zonal and Woreda level Cabinet members and experts). The workshop involved participants from Bench-Maji Zone, Guraferda, North Bench, Sheko and Yeki Woredas and included representation from the Agricultural Bureau, Finance and Economic and Development Bureau, Justice Office, Police Office and Court Office.

Objectives of the workshop were:

- To increase the understanding of senior government cabinets on PFM
- Raise awareness of project progress
- To develop joint strategies and action plans that address the challenges faced during PFM implementation.



Summary of the main events of the workshop

Presentation on Participatory Forest Management (PFM), Definition, History, Rationale, Principles and Implementation Steps

By Peter O'Hara and Hamid Said

This paper by the PFM International Adviser and the Project Coordinator for REPAFMA (based in Masha) sought to clarify the nature of PFM as applied in Sheko Woreda and other parts of SNNPRS where SWFLG is working. The main issues addressed in the presentation were:

- PFM is a government programme that devolves forest management responsibilities to legally organized community based organizations.
- In PFM the community members are the key decision makers and beneficiaries.

- PFM recognizes forests as a renewable resource, which can be selectively harvested on a regular and sustainable basis.
- PFM enhances sustainable utilization of the forest by increasing its value and productivity while maintaining and improving its ecological role.

Since PFM's introduction to Ethiopia in the mid 1990's in Adaba-Dodola and Chilimo it has expanded to other parts of the country as people have recognised the benefits from the forest for local people and its contribution to the national economy alongside the agriculture sector.



Presentation on PFM activity progress of WCC-PFM Project

By Dawit Biru

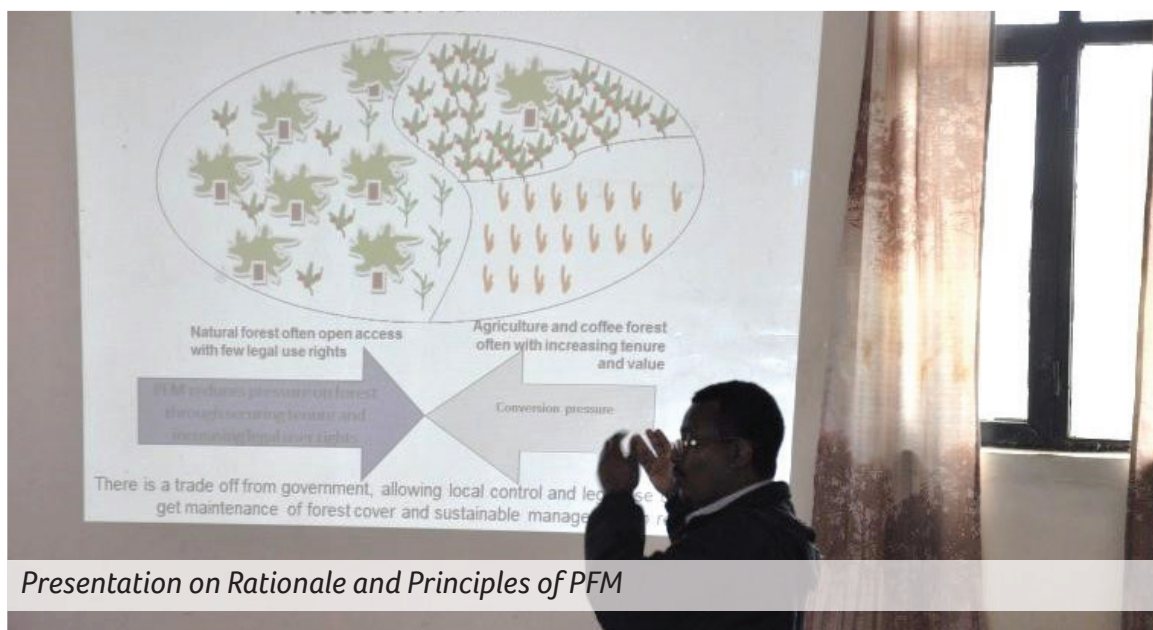
The Senior PFM Officer of the WCC-PFM Project reported that:

- WCC-PFM project is implementing PFM in four woredas (Guraferda, South Bench, Sheko and North Bench in Bench-Maji Zone and Yeki Woreda in Sheka Zone).
- This includes 75,813 ha of forest.
- The objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of in-situ coffee biodiversity through the application of simplified PFM procedures. This includes the development of benefit sharing mechanisms and sustainable forest

management plans agreed by the community and the government.

Major achievements of the project to date are:

- Project familiarization workshop facilitated from Zone to Woreda level
- Socio-economic baseline assessment completed for all Woredas.
- One Woreda level FMA (Forest Management Association) and twenty Got level branches of the FMA established. These branches are legalised as members of the FMA and have signed forest management agreements with the Woreda Agricultural Office; they have already started forest management activities.



Presentation on Rationale and Principles of PFM

Impact of the PFM work and the main challenges faced

By Girma Shumi, Senior Forest and Landscape Advisor



PFM handover ceremony in Sheko Woreda Primary Kebele and supplementary documents

Based on a 3 Rs exercise in two gots, one in Jeneka kebele in Sheko Woreda where the forest is under PFM, and one in Yeki Woreda where the forest is part of the Sheka Biosphere Reserve core area, the following impacts were found.

Main impacts of the PFM implementation

- **Motivation of the community towards forest management increased**

After the implementation of PFM, the motivation of the community to undertake forest resource management increased by 83%.

For instance community members in Jenjeka kebele planted 39,000 seedlings in an open area and rented an office by themselves. In addition, they assigned members to form a monitoring group to control all activities conducted in the forest. In contrast, in the forest belonging to the Sheka Biosphere Reserve core area motivation of the community for forest management decreased by 5%.

- **Ownership attitude of the community improved**

After PFM implementation forest ownership attitude of the community increased by 64% in Jenjeka, while in the area under Biosphere Reserve no change has been seen.

- **Forest based benefit increased**

Benefits the community obtain from the forest increased by 57% in Jenjeka after PFM implementation. In Biosphere Reserve core area forest benefits decreased by 59%. In some PFM Gots (e.g. Kosa Got of Jenjeka Kebele and Mesgid Zuriya Got in Gizmeret Kebele) the community have started converting agricultural land of low productivity to forest with a coffee understory, i.e. coffee forest, so the forest area is increasing.

Challenges

The main challenges of PFM implementation identified are:

- Understanding gaps between Woreda Agriculture Office, Kebele Administration, and Got and Woreda FMAs about their roles and responsibilities in forest management. Kebele and Woreda officials are still giving forest product utilization permission for individuals without the knowledge of the FMAs.
- Forest land grabbing by illegal investors (especially in Guraferda Woreda).
- Errors by government officials who consider the PFM process as a project activity, leading to unsatisfactory government support.
- Planting of improved coffee varieties in the coffee forest. Since this variety is light demanding the community is clearing the forest to create more suitable conditions and this trend is affecting the traditional practice that favours retaining shade trees.

Ways forward

- The Woreda Agricultural Office should incorporate PFM activity into their yearly and monthly routine activity plan. This will reduce the government budget allocated for forest guarding while establishing a more sustainable relationship with communities.
- Joint quarterly PFM review workshops that involve FMA members and Woreda level government stakeholders should be facilitated.
- The relevant government body from Woreda to Kebele level should support the community in forest development and protection activities. Government support is particularly needed to bring illegal encroachers to court.
- The Cooperative Office, Agricultural Office, Justice and Court Office should work closely with communities over illegal clearance of forest and use of products.
- Permission for forest product utilization in PFM forest should be issued by the Got level FMAs. The government experts can give technical support in this.

- Improved coffee variety planting should be closely followed by the responsible government body. It is good to orient the community to plant the improved variety outside of the forest as it requires full sunlight.



Presentation on PFM impacts, challenges and the way forward by Girma Shumi

Questions raised by participants, with answers

The questions raised by the participants and the answers given by the presenters are summarized as follows:

Q: How will we stop illegals who harvest forest products coming from neighbouring Woredas?

A: Working with neighbouring Woreda/Kebele communities and government body is necessary to stop the problem.

Q: Has knowledge of the need for conserving coffee biodiversity improved in the community?

A: The project has raised awareness in the community by assigning Woreda and Kebele level PFM facilitators who jointly work with government experts.

Q: In the presentation you explained that there is a 'lack of law enforcement'. How can this be changed?

A: If the necessary evidence is provided it is easy for the court to give appropriate decisions on the illegals. Without evidence it is difficult to give decisions in a short period of time. However, the court must act and make decisions otherwise the community will get fed-up of taking illegals to court when no appropriate measures are taken.

Q: Sheko Woreda FMA leaders reported that 37,000 seedling were planted in Jenjeka Kebele. Is this true? Are the seedlings alive now? Most of the time the Agricultural Office Experts' report that millions of seedlings are planted but nothing is seen on the ground. How about yours?

A: Dachu Zitu (Sheko Woreda FMA leader) explained that the development work done with the initiative of the local community is fruitful. He also expressed the willingness of the Woreda FMA to facilitate a visit for anyone who wants to see the planted seedlings and be assured that all seedlings are alive.

Q: What are the major activities done by the project to promote the coffee produced in the area

A: The government stakeholders and the community, with facilitation of the project, have identified valuable and marketable forest-based products namely: Forest coffee, Wild coffee, honey, Luya, Korerima, Timiz and Beha and two specialty coffees (Civet Cat and Baboon coffee). The WCC-PFM project has been conducting different activities in the last year to promote and market these, especially the coffee produced in the area. As a result different companies have requested samples and are

considering buying these.

To help market forest-based products at national and international levels two community-based marketing institutions have been established. The marketing institutions are: Forest Coffee Marketing Cooperative and Wild Forest Product Marketing Cooperative. Both institutions have obtained a legal certificate from the Bench-Maji Zone Justice Office. Establishment of a market link is in progress with UK based buyer (Wakefield) for coffee and with national exporters for honey.

To strengthen the coops the project has provided different materials for processing, such as mesh wire, ground balance, plastic sheeting, jute bags, honey processing equipment such as a honey press, refractometer, sieves & wax processing and moulding material alongside different sized containers. In addition, the construction of a warehouse and office is underway for each coop. In addition, different capacity building activities such as training in financial management, leadership, office management, business plan development and quality product processing have been facilitated for the coops' members.

Q: How will the project control the planting of high yielding coffee varieties?

A: The project has to work in collaboration with other stakeholders to address this issue.

PFM activity reports by the community representatives

Woreda based group work was organized. Then community representatives from the four project intervention woredas prepared

presentations on the PFM progress/ impacts, the main challenges faced and recommended solutions in the light of their respective woredas.

Table 1 Summary of presentation made by Sheko Woreda representatives

Key PFM Challenges	Recommendations	Responsible body
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of joint planning and accompanying evaluation. 2. Most of the Woreda officials have no in-depth understanding of PFM 3. Lack of coordination among Justice Office and Woreda Agriculture Office to control illegal activities 4. The community show more interest for forest utilization compared to forest development. 5. More priority for personal work as compared to cooperative work 6. Lack of clear boundary between farm lands and the forest in some Gots 7. Lack of coordination between Kebele and PFM leaders 8. Lack of benefit sharing agreement between FMA and SDA 9. The project focused only on coffee. It has to work on other NTFPs. 10. Conflict of interest over forest ownership between Kebele and PFM leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woreda Agricultural Office and project should plan PFM activities jointly • Facilitating awareness raising workshop and training on PFM for Woreda cabinet members • Working in coordination with stakeholders • Convincing the community to focus on development work to ensure sustainable utilization • Identifying and correcting forest boundary's that have a dispute • Identifying additional NTFPs for livelihood improvement 	Woreda Agricultural Office, Woreda Justice Office and the project

Sheko Woreda FMA leaders explaining PFM challenges and the way forward

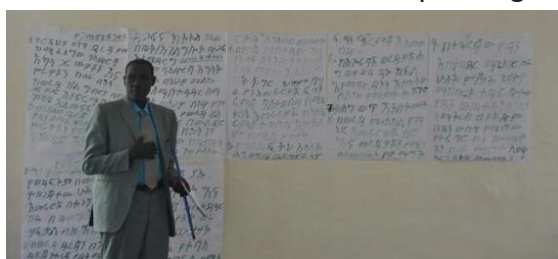


Table 2 Summary of presentation made by North-Bench Woreda representatives

Key PFM Challenges	Recommendations	Responsible body
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low knowledge of cabinet members on PFM approach 2. Finance and skilled manpower shortage to solve forest boundary conflict 3. Lack of coordination among stakeholders (government sectors vs community) 4. Lack of PFM incorporation in routine government plan and report 5. Lack of participation of all stakeholders in forest boundary demarcation (in EDF Kebeles) 6. Lack of finalizing land use management 7. Lack of following model farmers in forest management 8. Lack of understanding the similarity and difference between Biosphere and PFM approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing PFM workshop for stakeholders on regular basis • Organizing training on basic skills of forest boundary demarcation • Government should assign expert and allocate budget for PFM activities • Establishing integration and coordination among stakeholders • Increasing ownership attitude of the community • Putting clear marks on forest boundary during demarcation and showing it to the whole community • FMA members, Gov. Experts and Woreda Forest task force should work together and support each other to control illegal's • Working with neighbouring Kebeles and Woreda to resolve boundary conflicts 	<p>Government Sectoral Offices and the community with support from the project</p>

North Bench Woreda group work and presentation

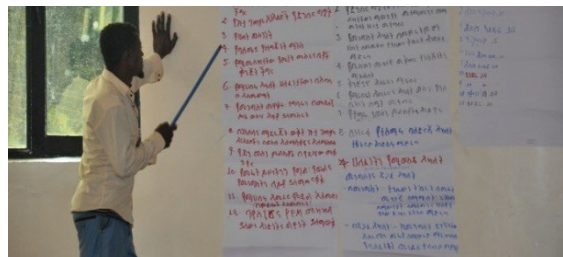


Table 3 Summary of presentation made by Yeki Woreda representatives

Key PFM Challenges	Recommendations	Responsible body
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of awareness of government cabinet on PFM approach 2. Lack of cooperation among different stakeholders 3. Boundary conflicts 4. Forest land grabbing by investors 5. Biosphere and PFM approach conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating PFM awareness raising workshop • Creation of coordination among different projects working on PFM • Giving rapid solutions for PFM challenges in collaboration with other stakeholders • FMA members, Gov. Experts and Woreda Forest task force should work together and support each other to stop/control illegals • Working with neighbouring Kebeles and Woreda to resolve boundary conflicts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woreda Agricultural Office and Woreda Administration • Projects that are working in the area of PFM • Law makers and implementers

Yeki Woreda group work and Presentation



Table 4 Summary of presentation made by Guraferda Woreda representatives

Key PFM Challenges	Recommendations	Responsible body
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of clear boundary between forest and investors' coffee 2. Lack of discussions on PFM challenges and achievements with stakeholders at woreda level 3. Unclear boundary between South Bench and Guraferda Woreda 4. Due to lack of PFM knowledge, sometimes the community is not cooperating with regard to suing illegal's 5. Illegal investment expansion 6. Woreda Agricultural Office not taking leadership in Coordinating PFM work 7. Lack of law enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woreda Agricultural Office should take the lead to identify unknown boundary • Organizing stakeholder workshop at Woreda level on quarterly basis • Facilitating forest boundary negotiation among stakeholders • Organizing awareness raising for community at grass roots level at regular intervals • Establishing close relationship with Zone Investment Bureau to address the issue of illegal investors • Woreda Agricultural Office should take the lead to coordinate PFM activities 	<p>Woreda Agricultural Office, project, Woreda and Zonal Administration and Investment Bureau</p>

Guraferda Woreda group work and presentation

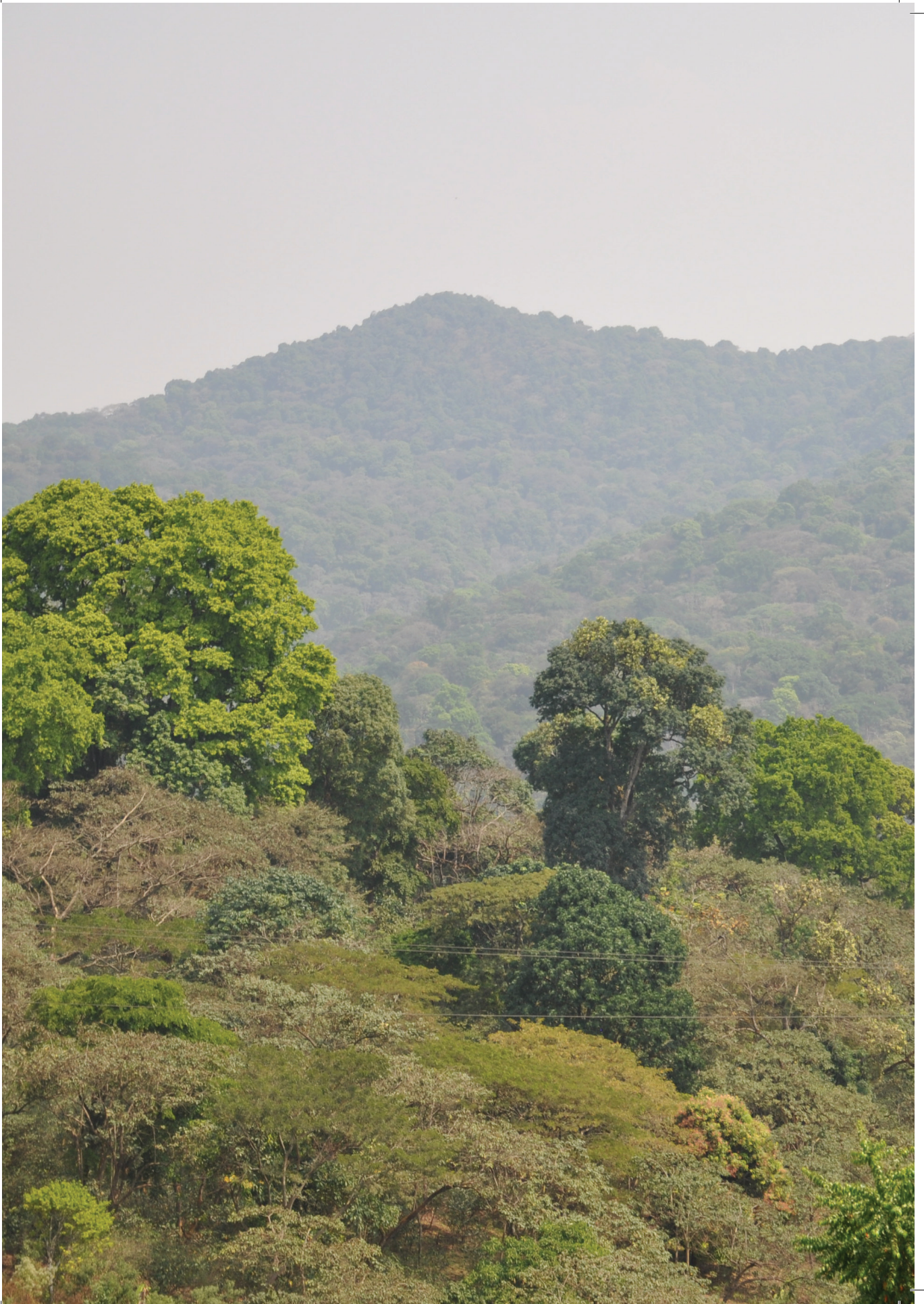


Achievements of the workshop

As a result of the day-long workshop a positive feeling was created with respect to the PFM work and what it can do to help maintain the coffee genetic resources in the natural forest.

Key achievements were:

- Government officials understood the rationale and principles of PFM and the key steps involved.
- The participants understood the main challenges faced during PFM implementation and together developed joint strategies and actions to overcome the challenges.
- The participants recognized forest conservation as a government priority and showed willingness to support the FMAs in their effort to manage and utilize the forest resources.
- The workshop participants agreed to organize joint review and planning meetings with woreda level stakeholders on a quarterly basis.
- Experience sharing on PFM was facilitated between staff and communities from different woredas.
- The participants agreed to incorporate PFM activities in the Woreda Agricultural Office routine activity plan and report.



Participants at the workshop

S/N	Participant Name	Organization	Position	Woreda
1	Terefe Sake	PFM member ship	Member	Sheko
2	Dachu Zitu	PFM member ship	Member	Sheko
3	Getnet Kunedi	PFM member ship	Member	Sheko
4	Abebaw Beze	Rural Kebele	Kebele Administrator	Sheko
5	Tesfaye Banete	Rural Kebele	Kebele Administrator	Sheko
6	Abebawe Hasne	Willed coffee Association	Association Leader	Sheko
7	Desalegn Lameboro	CLPFMF	PFM facilitator	Sheko
8	Dereje Bayu	CLPFMF	PFM facilitator	Sheko
9	Birara Adese	Rural Kebele Administrator	Kebele Administrator	Sheko
10	Demeke Alemu	Willed coffee Association	Association secretary	Sheko
11	Pawulos Markos	Rural Kebele Administrator	Kebele Administrator	Sheko
12	Negusse Setarge	Farmer coffee cooperative	Association Leader	Sheko
13	Samuel Gawareka	Honey Harvesting Association	Mejangerhoney Harvesting Association Leader	Sheko
14	Ashenafi Koye	Bench-Maji zone justice office	Higher justice president	Sheko
15	Akelilu Ahayele	PFM Administrator	Kerenber got committee member	Sheko
16	Enedale Belaynhe	CLPFMF	facilitator	Sheko
17	Tadesse Shbena	Sheko Woreda natural recourse	representative	Sheko
18	Esekeneder Worku	Sheko Woreda natural recourse	facilitator	Sheko
19	Ale Guremu	Sheko	Officer	Sheko
20	Daniel Tesfaye	Office Manager	Manager	Sheko
21	Dawit Teklemariyam	Manager	President	Sheko
22	Tekele Addisu	Sheko agriculture office	Sheko Agriculture Office Head	Sheko
23	I/R Feseha Seni	Sheko Police Head	Manager	Sheko
24	Mesert Bekele	Jenjeka kebele	Kebele administrator	Sheko
25	Aneleye Eneyewe	Sheko Wored Agricultural Office	Marketing Officer	Sheko
26	Zelalem Takele	Bench Magi Zone	Government Officer	Sheko
27	Getahun Belet	Sheko Woreda Justice office	Facilitator	Sheko
28	Senetayehu Zerkenes	Justice officer	Administrative	Sheko

S/N	Participant Name	Organization	Position	Woreda
29	Desyalew Fantaye	Woreda PFMF	PFM facilitator	Guraferda
30	Meressa Guye	Guraferda Aministration	Administration	Guraferda
31	Eshetu Hayele	GuraferdaWoreda justice	Representative	Guraferda
32	Hayelu Giltu	Biftu Marketing &Coop.Office	Officer	Guraferda
33	Selemone Geremew	EDPM Gurafreda	Manager	Guraferda
34	Mesefin Hizkes	Agri.OfficeGuraferda	Manager	Guraferda
35	Meteku Alemu	NRM	Representative	Guraferda
36	Belay Desalegn	Justice officer	Administrator	Guraferda
37	Abebe Meteke	Office Manager	President	Guraferda
38	Getahun Desalegne	Woreda PFM	PFM facilitator	N.Bench
39	Wesa Daka	Administrator	Chief Manager	N.Bench
40	Legese Worku	North Bench Justice Office	Justice president	N.Bench
41	Nardoss Takele	Agriculture office	Agriculture office head	N.Bench
42	Muketar Sileti	North Bench work facilitator	facilitator	N.Bench
43	Kasahune Nayeken	North Bench office	Manager	N.Bench
44	Shemlis Seyed	North Bench Admin	Administrator	N.Bench
45	R/E NegusseTakele	Police office	Manager	N.Bench
46	Demelash Gede	Yeki Justice Office	office Manager	Yeki
47	Alemayehu Atilo	Justice office	lawyer	Yeki
48	Biniyam Abebe	Yeki Woreda PFM	facilitator	Yeki
49	Melaku Dakesho	Yeki Polis	Polis	Yeki
50	Getahun Gebito	Yeki Natural Resource Office	facilitator	Yeki
51	Befekadu Zirito	representative	President	Yeki
52	Worku Sharew	Yeki Wored administrator	representative	Yeki
53	Abyot Shawano	Yeki Wored administrator	wored administrator	Yeki
54	TekestAsefa	Yeki Wored	-	Yeki
55	AyehuTameru	Yeki Office	Representative	Yeki
56	Samson G/Yohannes	Shemi Non Forest product officer	Facilitator	Shimi
57	Mitiku Abedisa	Bench-Maji zone justice office	justice office facilitator	Mizan
58	Dawit Korabe	Bench -Maji zone justice office	Higher justice court	Mlzan zone

S/N	Participant Name	Organization	Position	Woreda
59	Meserte Taye	N.B Woreda Justice Office	justice office manager	N.Bench
60	Tsegaye G/Tsadike	Zone Marketing Association	representative	Mizan
61	Habtamu Kefeten	Zone Admin	Administrative	Mizan
62	Fekere Amene	Bench -Maji Zone Office	Administrative	Mizan
63	C/L Wodajo Suleman	Bench -Maji Zone Police	Administrator	Mizan





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