Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung Ethiopia

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ETHIOPIAN COFFEE AND TEA AUTHORITY

PHE ETHIOPIA consortium

ECFF

INTERNATIONAL Coffee Partners

EU Yayu DeSIRA Project HRNS-Ethiopia

Presented at DeSIRA Connect Days.

(Bekele Haile-PM)

July 29-31/2024

Lemigo Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda

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1 Introduction

Acronym: EU Yayu DeSIRA project

“This EU Yayu DeSIRA Project is implemented in the UNESCO-registered Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve by a consortium comprising six partner organizations led by Hanns R. Neumann Stiftung (HRNS), Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA), Jimma Agricultural Research Center (JARC), Population Health and Environment Ethiopia Consortium (PHE-EC), Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF) and International Coffee Partners (ICP), with the aim of *improving the livelihoods of smallholders and conserving the coffee forest ecosystems through climate relevant and integrated landscape management*."

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Specific Objectives

1. Conserve Forest biodiversity and reduce carbon dioxide emissions of the YCFBR and its environs through integrated and landscape approaches complemented research and innovations

2. Enhance economic and social wellbeing of local communities with 8,500 households through climate and environmentally friendly and innovative coffee and other production and marketing practices

3. Strength local institution for the implementation of an integrated and sustainable landscape approach and local natural resource management planning for wider adoption

Operational: September 1st 2021 at 6 Woredas/Districts, Oromia Region (SW-Ethiopia)

Beneficiaries: 8,500 HH smallholder coffee farmers ensuring inclusion of 30% women

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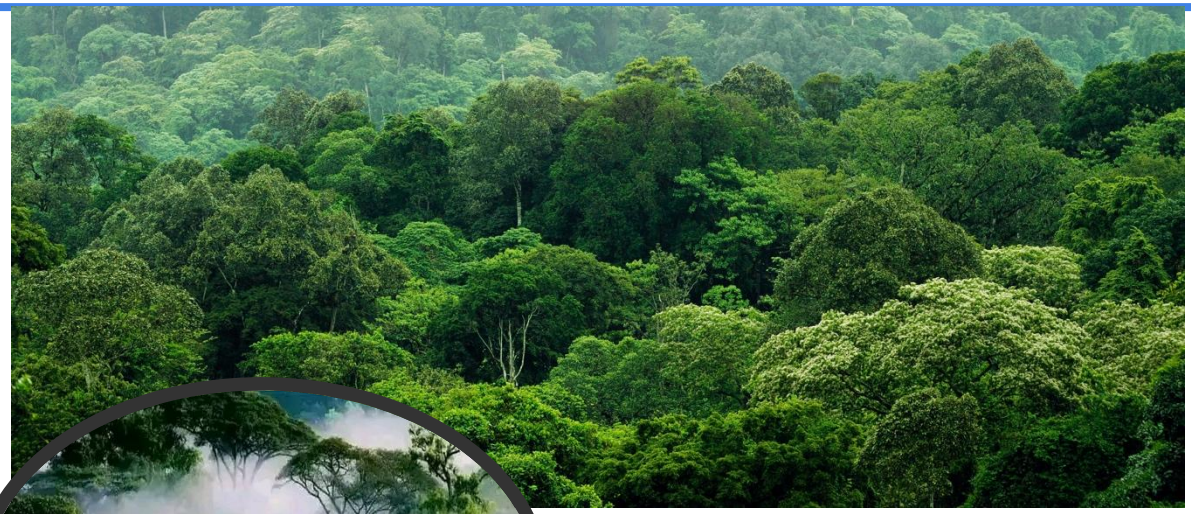
Project Location: Has National/Global Significance

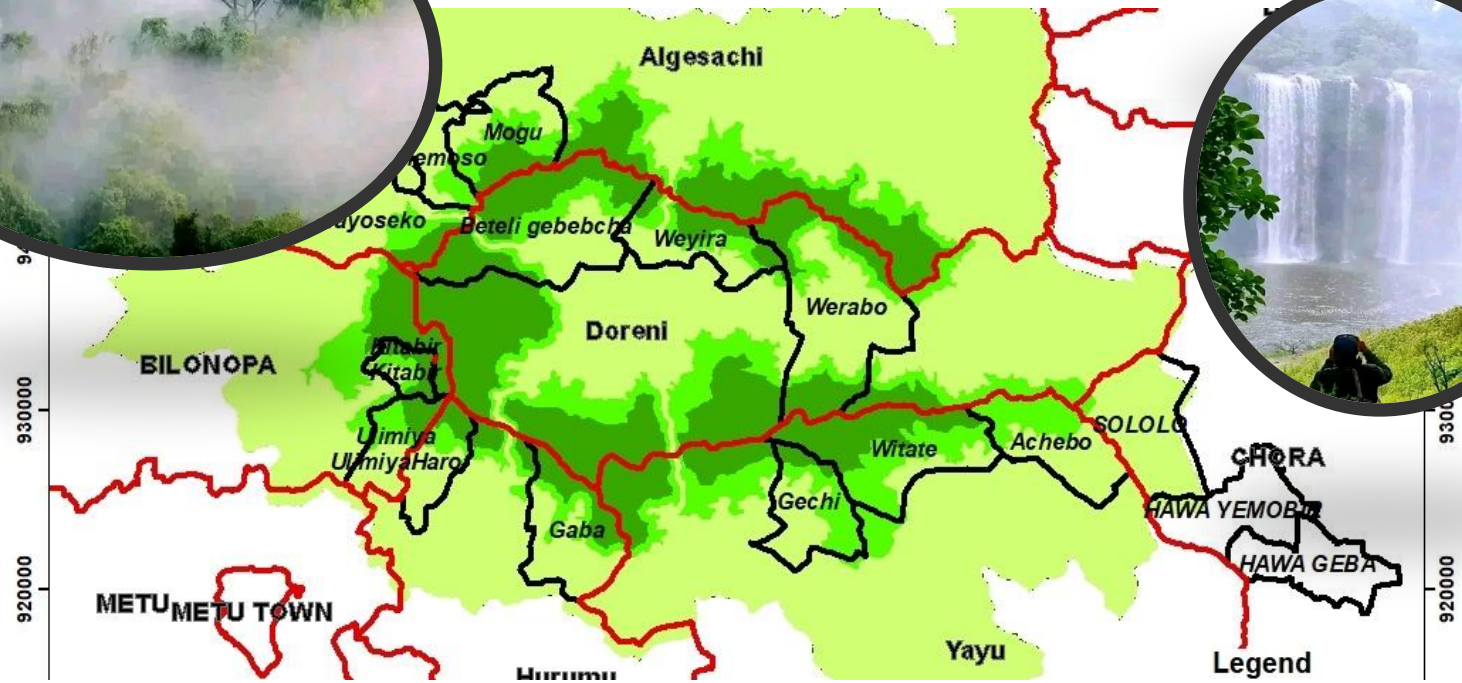
One of the 31 Global Biodiversity Hot-Spot Region

UNESCO Designated Coffee Arabica Gene pool Region

Eastern Afromontane Cloud Forest and Headwater Region contributing 46% of Nile Basin.

One of the National Forest& Biodiversity Priority Areas





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3 The Global context and the alignments

- The objective of EU DeSIRA initiative is ***to "contribute to climate-relevant, productive and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-incomes countries".***
- **The challenges of** climate change, loss of biodiversity, high pressure on resources, etc is to be addressed through implementing DeSIRA Pillar-1: Research and Innovation in Agricultural and Food systems, implementing the Sustainable resources and value chains management.

- **This aligns with:**

- The objectives of why the UNESCO Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve has been designated. (aim to conserve the wild coffee gene pool and overall forest biodiversity, while promoting livelihood improvement of the local communities through sustainable development and wise use of the natural resources.

- The EU Yayu DeSIRA project: (aim of *improving the livelihoods of smallholders and conserving the coffee forest ecosystems through climate relevant and integrated landscape management)*.

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4 Problem Analysis

Multiple challenges:

- Deforestation and forest degradations,
- Loss of biodiversity,
- Low productivity/ poor agronomic practices,
- Absence of product recognition,
- Lack of market access and
- Subsistence Livelihood cycles.
- Lack of farmers friendly innovation and technologies

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5 The multi-actor approaches

5.1 Agro-ecology through Integrated landscape governance:

- Agro-ecological categorizations and interventions of suitable farming systems by involving different players.
- Aligning with BR Mgt Plan to pilot the integration of a landscape approach into local government planning.

5.2 Promoting Innovation- Climate response actions

- Sustainable intensification of agricultural landscapes promoting efficient utilization of resources and ecosystem services.
- Demonstration of multiple climate benefits, promoting climate resilience and mitigation mechanisms.
- Diversification of agro-biodiversity in order to adapt to external and internal drivers.
- Characterization and quality profiling of wild coffee Arabica

5.3 Participatory action research, learning, and extension:

- Farmers and researchers collaboratively engage in practical problem-solving, utilizing diverse research methods.
- Farmers, researchers and extensionists innovate together& co-learn in order to continually address the complex challenges faced by smallholders.
- The approach is a practical extension models to improve sustainable farming practices through enhanced group learning.
- The action integrates the proven extension methodology, known as Farmers Field School (FFS).

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6 Intervention strategy-logic

Institutional Level	Community Level	Household Level	Individual Level
• **Multi-sectoral engagement** • **Joint planning& implementation** • **Market recognition & linkage** • **Effective community organizations (Coops& PFMs)** • **Capacity strengthening**	• Well informed citizens about conservation& benefit • Forest Mgt& secured forest tenure rights • Integrated land use planning& implementation • Joint Monitoring	• Livelihood improvement support • Improved practices of climate smart agriculture • Increased income • Food security • Empowering women	• New skills & practices • Improved access to inputs& extension services • Diversified income options

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7 Uniqueness from usual

•The project integrates people and nature conservation with long term sustainability for building resilient community. It includes to address climate change, gender inclusive at HH, livelihood improvements through productive conservation and landscape governance, agricultural product diversifications and coffee quality improvements with market incentives.

- Multimodal implementation applied blending of knowledges of different actors and professional disciplines at the same time enhancing the capacity of local institutions (government& CBOs) for holistic interventions. The multi players also create synergy and complementarity, genuine participatory approaches of the beneficiaries and key government stakes in project cycle managements

- The extension approach (FFS) where farmers own and self-learn innovations for improved production and productivity of agriculture and food systems through learning by doing, using their fields as a knowledge plate. The GHA is promoted to ensure gender equalities of rural families at HH level to change the traditional way life using couple seminar; door-to-door visits by change agents.

are among unique in approaches.

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8 The expected outcome highlights

- The beneficiaries (farmers) improve their production and productivity through implementing GAPs, climate change adaptation actions and participating in biodiversity conservation. The target groups improve their livelihoods and ensure food security by diversifying income options form coffee-based production systems, thereby building resilience.

- The climate, biodiversity, livelihoods and good agricultural practices implemented through integrated landscape approach in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, and therefore the project's impact has local, national and international importance.

- These intermediate outcome need more time to reach to impact level and to ensure sustainability beyond the project.

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9 Achievement So far..

Institutional capacity enhancements:

•7,492 (2,220f, 5,272m) were registered, constituting 88.14% of the total target (8,500).

•Direct contact Trainings 3,193 (1,315f, 1,878m) AND 3,533 through various organized platforms across project activities,

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- Training (farmers& innovation facilitators)
- Exchange learning from best models
- Productive inputs on demand (for coffee& climate)

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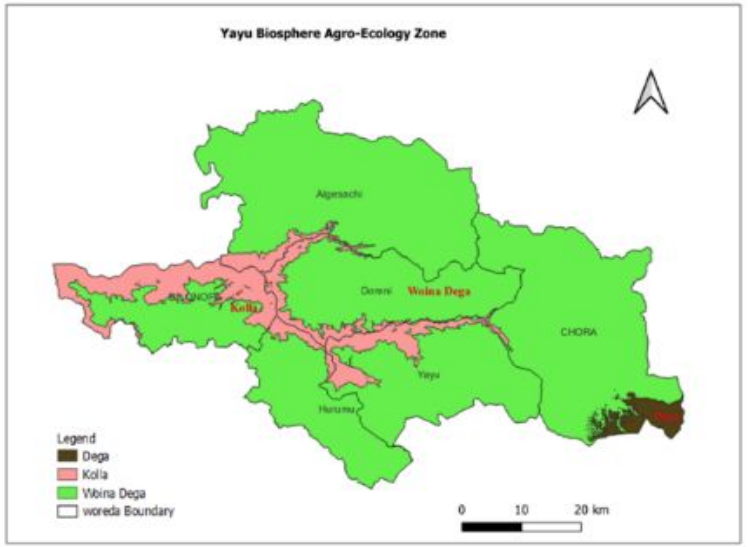
Achievement …

9.1 Integrated Landscape Mgt and governance:

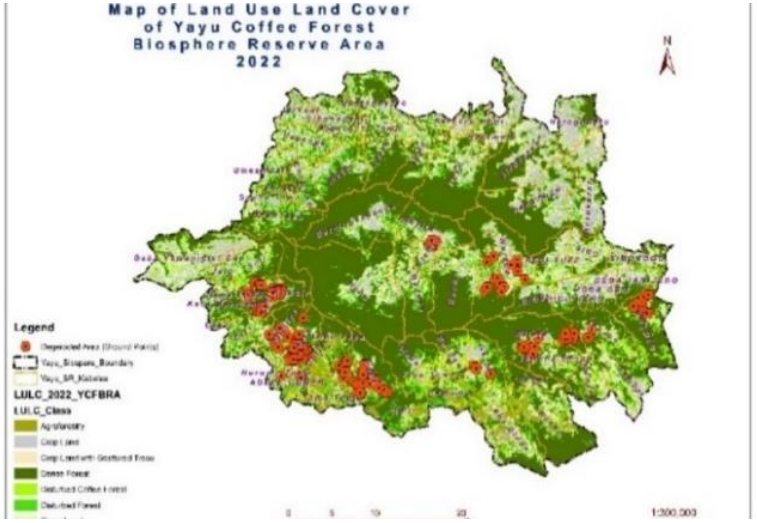
A) Agroecological mapping:

- Agroecological categorization,
- Identification of land-use land cover types,
- Major crop growing regions/seasons for coffee and major cereals
- Socio-ecological landscape dimensions (community-ecosystem interactions).
- Aim-for practicing climate friendly agroecology-based innovative technologies



B) Degradation level mapping:

- 38,708ha degraded forest coffee areas mapped, degradation level identified.
- 4,102 ha degraded hotspots identified across the intervention boundaries using GPS.
- context specific expertise recommendations for restoration were generated and put into practice.



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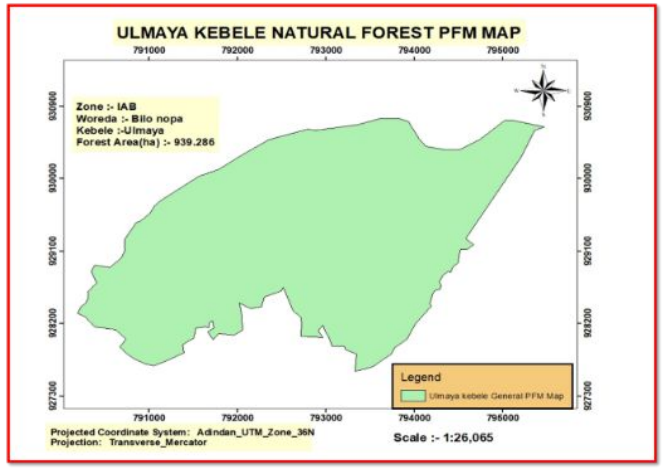
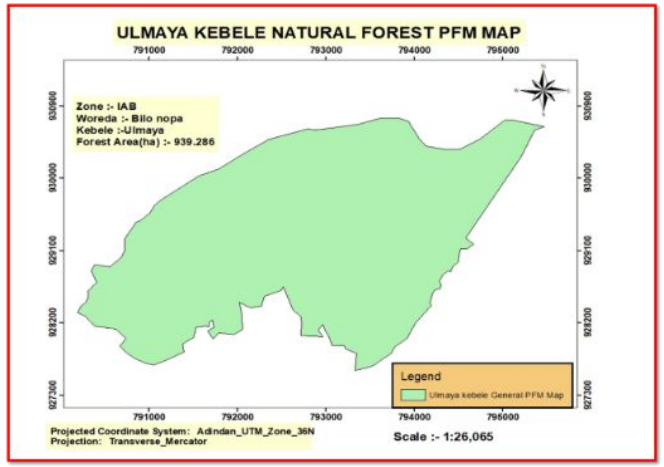
Achievement …

C) Participatory Forest Management (PFM):

- The project strives to maintain harmony between people and nature/forests.
- PFM is an action method to address degradation challenges of forest/ biodiversity.
  - Open accessed natural forest under community-based management scheme.
- Forest is demarcated for protection, management, and utilization (PFMs have Mgt plan)
- The PFMs have defined roles and responsibilities and are legally certified community-based institutions.
- Contribute to integrated land scape Mgt.





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Achievement …

D) Participatory and integrated land use planning (PILUP):

- Emphasizing restoration and landscape governance, ensuring soil health for sustainable productivity.
- Pilot areas identified and farmers were practicing, where the models will be replicated.
- The approach utilizes multi-intervention activities: establishing climate smart HHs and practicing climate adaptation actions, vermicompost preparation/use, use of improved fruit varieties, garden agroforestry and backyard farming, implementing GAPs.
- So far, 203 (22f,181m) HHs were managed to earn over 650,000ETB from mix of products, this is linked with (VSLAs) with (165 members).

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Achievement …

9.2 Participatory action research for innovation dissemination:

- Research aimed at promoting innovative agroecological approaches to reduce carbon emissions.
- The survey focused on gathering insights into soil management options, climate change impacts, and biomass utilization.
- Research results: farmland incorporating vetiver grass hedgerows demonstrated a high carbon stock (sequestered) of 114,002.11 tons C/ha, compared to farmland without vetiver,
- The ongoing research findings identified innovative technologies include the utilization of vetiver grass, local-desho grass, and the application of desmodium as a cover crop. (coffee system& other farm-land)
- The technologies under development (Co2 emission reducing models, coffee-based production system improvements, Soil health). **Applicable by farmers.**

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Achievement …

9.3/1 Improvement of Livelihoods:

- The project has also set livelihood improvement targets.
- 133 Self-learning (FFS) platform with 3,504 (522f,2,982m) active members-undertaking innovative practices. Of coffee value chain devnt plus GHA, Climate,OD.

- So far, 1,059,000 seedlings were produced at FFS nurseries (coffee/shade), about half planted

- Thus far, 62ha (171,000 old coffee trees) rejuvenated by 2,655 HHs (about half by scaling up)
- The promising re-growth performances bearing flowers in a year time.
- Farmers are encouraged and willingness increased for adoption.

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- ToT on FFS approaches& methodologies
- Use of dem plots for practical learning (25-30groups/FFS)
- Facilitations through FFS facilitators-back up from DAs
- Upscaling the best innovative models to farmers' field

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Achievement …

9.3/2Climate adaptations and mitigations:

•The project is striving to build climate change resilient HHs through practicing climate adaptation and mitigation mechanisms.

- Crop diversification, awareness raising, use of essential inputs and clean energy initiative,small scale irrigation options,...

•1,267HHs (1,125m,142f) are cultivating improved fruits so far, 6,721(2,940 avocado & 3,781 banana) and vegetables using water points

•Part of the HHs earned over 525,000ETB from fresh harvest of 90,000kg vegetables.

(Land use frequency, Food system improvement, Income options, HH-Nutritional balance)

•The local climate actions are contributing to responding the global challenges.

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Achievement …

9.4 Gender Inclusion:

- Fostering of GHA is to mainstream gender equality and equity at family level (utilizing (FFS).
- Gender training 294 govt experts, hosting couple seminars for 804 couples willing to become catalysts for programmatic transformations, joint family decision,

- Women are motivated actively engaging across the project intervention activities GAPs (276), climate actions (142), forest & biodiversity conservation (78), and present themselves in different formalized platforms. IGAs (183) Over 35,000kg fresh product (1.0Million ETB) gross
- This will encourage the economic empowerment and justice for resource utilization of women.

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Achievement …contd

9.5 Enhancement of Farmers organization

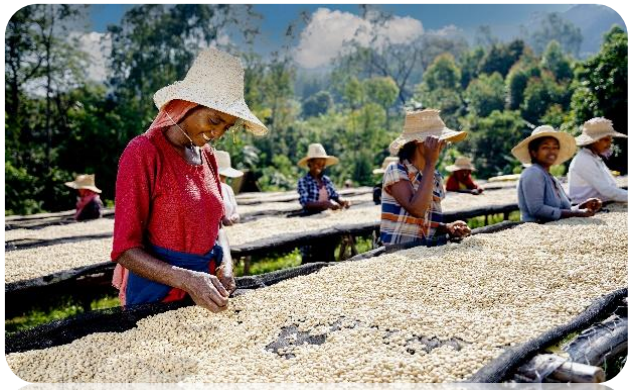
•The project is working with 154 FOs (17 coops, 2PFMs, 2 unions,& 133 FFS).

•The main income source for the livelihoods of HHs is coffee, and the coops have active engagements in coffee value chain.

•17 coops with 5,641 (728f,4,917m) Provided quality materials& trained,

•The initiative significantly improves cooperative members' skills in proper coffee harvesting and quality handling with increasing their bargaining power.

•The coops collected/sold 550,000 kg of red cherry, 17,100kg washed and 81,263kg dry cherry and **mobilized aggregate capital of over 20,million ETB**



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Lessons…

- Multiple challenges need multi partnership actions (partnering with govnt-Complementarity of partnerships-learning platforms (diverse work culture)-help to see big picture).
- Upscaling initiatives of innovative practices by farmers (GAPs)
- There are some Takeaways of intermediate outcomes initiated by the government the FFS experiences.
- Women engagement is encouraging across the project activities
- Participatory engagements-joint solutions leading to attitudinal/behavioral changes of actors
- (Action Research) Outcomes demanding additional time ….to full scale result/impact
- Inbuilt policy dialogue processes(policy makers are part of the project implementation partly responsive in due process)
- Interconnection of local action with global agendas (climate, biodiversity, agri-food systems)
- The project is contributing NDC and SDG

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THANK YOU!

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