

Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF)



2024

Integrity, serving the society with respect, diversity, inclusiveness, genuine and mutual partnership, humanity, neutrality, gender equity and equality, people centred, commitment, loyalty and team spirit.

Profile 2024





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Background

ECFF was initiated in early 2005 as discussion forum by Ethiopian and German scientists engaged in the collaborative research project “**Conservation and use of the wild populations of Coffea arabica in the montane rainforests of Ethiopia (CoCE)**”. After a few rounds of meetings, it was decided to establish it as an NGO that implements recommendations of the research works, while sustaining further research and development.

It was first registered and licensed as **Ethiopian Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF)** in November 2005 (Registration Number 2396) as a local, non-political, non-religious and not-for profit civil society organization, as per the 1960 Civil Code. ECFF was re-registered in 2009 and 2019 as **Environment and Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF)**(Registration Number 0378) in accordance with the relevant civil society proclamations of 2009 and 2019 of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. ECFF has also got Equivalency Certificate with US charitable organizations since 2020.

Vision and Mission

The vision of ECFF is a healthy and prosperous society that values, conserves and sustainably uses nature. Our mission is to reverse degradation of natural environment, and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable and equitable use of renewable natural resources. ECFF primarily focuses on developing strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of the coffee genetic resources, forest ecosystems and the environment in order to improve the livelihoods of local communities. ECFF has over 18 years' experiences in research and development, and provision of advisory services. It has successfully implemented several projects.

We have four core program areas:

- **Forest and Biodiversity:** research and development interventions on forest ecosystem, coffee, protected areas, UNESCO biosphere reserves, range lands, woodlands, wetlands and associated biodiversity
- **Food and agriculture:** focuses on improved ecological agriculture that increases income & productivity, diversifies food crops, builds resilience and mainstreams conservation
- **Climate change and disaster risks:** assessment of climate and disaster risks and promotion of adaptation and mitigation measures



- **Institutional and capacity development:** includes building our own organizational development & the capacity of own staff, partners and beneficiaries.



Our approach approaches include

- Participatory, inter-disciplinary action research to generate knowledge, document best practices
- UNESCO Biosphere Reserve: an approach that integrates conservation, development, research and environmental monitoring in management of multi-functional landscape
- Participatory Forest Management: promoting and supporting community participation in management and sustainable & equitable use of forest resources
- Climate Smart Agriculture: integrated approach that adapts agriculture to CC, and also mitigates effects of CC
- Nature based solutions: integrating sustainable management and use of natural features and processes to tackle socio-environmental challenges.



Major achievements of ECFF include developing forest and coffee reserve management system, promoting ecosystem management and building capacity for climate resilient coffee economy while testing climate finance mechanism. ECFF has undertaken extensive research works on coffee forests, climate change and livelihoods, and introduced and promoted the UNESCO biosphere reserve as an approach to sustainably manage multifunctional forested landscape, while integrating biodiversity conservation.

ECFF has strong partnership with researchers and practitioners in coffee, biodiversity conservation, forestry and climate change. We led multi-disciplinary research on the wild populations of Arabica coffee and its forest habitat with the University of Bonn, and have identified conservation priority areas and approaches for sustainable use. We are pioneers in initiating and promoting the UNESCO biosphere reserve in Ethiopia as an approach that integrates conservation and use in a multifunctional forested landscape, piloting at Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve, which was listed by UNESCO in 2010.

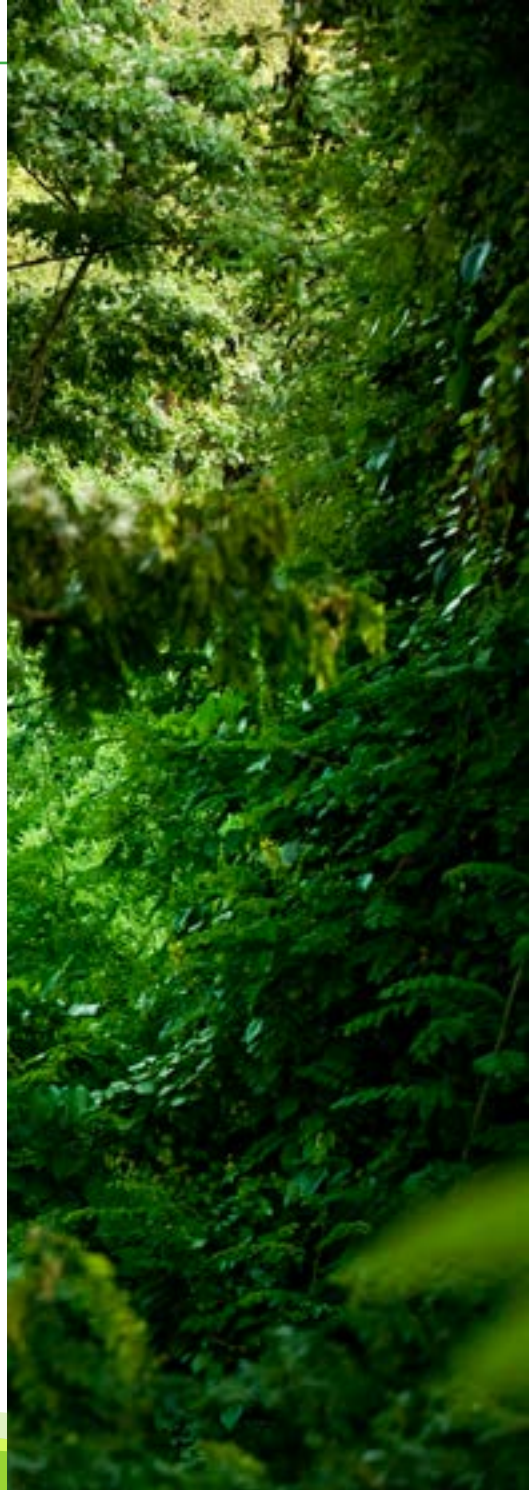
Understanding that land use change is not the only threat to coffee and its forest habitat, ECFF has partnered with the Royal



Agricultural landscape around Yayu

Botanic Gardens, Kew, NCRC and the Oxford University to explore the impacts of climate change and land use changes, and develop strategies for mitigation and resilience. We were able to predict how climate change affects coffee, and develop strategies, including management practices at farm level and assisted migration pathways to a more suitable areas in the future. In the process, we have built the biggest geospatial database of coffee in Ethiopia and jointly produced the Coffee Atlas of Ethiopia with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The Coffee Atlas of Ethiopia maps the coffee landscape of Ethiopia, showing where coffee is (could be) farmed, and the location of wild Arabica coffee forests. It is an essential resource for those interested in coffees of different origins in Ethiopia.

ECFF has also strengthened farmers' cooperatives and cooperative unions in coffee growing areas and beyond. We have started with five cooperatives in Yayu Coffee Forest, and expanded to over 30 coffee producers and 15 honey producers' cooperatives in the



area. ECFF has built the capacities of producers in improving coffee quality through improved processing and storage, and linked them with direct buyers. Specifically, we have supported the cooperative to improve the quality of coffee (sun-dried processing method), and honey through introduction of modern beehives and processing machine. We have also helped the cooperatives to join the Sor-Geba Cooperative Union, and built the capacity of the Union to start coffee export business, and have linked the union with specialty coffee importer in Europe. We have also helped them in getting Rainforest Alliance certificate.

Both coffee and honey quality has improved significantly. The cooperatives and union are exporting coffee at much higher price, on average 2.8 USD/pound even when the market price fell under 1USD/pound globally. They have started export 5 years ago and the market linkage is still strong and going on, and export volumes are increasing every year.

Further, ECFF has built the capacities of 12 cooperative unions in Oromia and 4 cooperative unions in Tigray, including preparation of manuals and guidelines for capacity building. Our capacity building work focused on union level and selected 4 cooperatives per union as pilots. This project was implemented in collaboration with the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency and Federal as well as regional Cooperatives Promotion Agencies.

ECFF has conducted a number of action research works on agricultural crops diversification, including fruits and vegetables that can be integrated into biodiversity rich forested landscapes like Yayu Coffee Forest, with the aim of producing nutrient rich food for market and household level consumption by the smallholder farmers in Yayu area. Many new vegetables were introduced, and were well accepted by the local communities and were also approved by the national research system to be widely used in agricultural development extension works. Along

with this, ECFF has contributed to restoration of degraded forest areas through trees and coffee planting, contributing to the climate smart agricultural practices.

ECFF has also provided advisory services to organizations that work on forest coffee, like JICA, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, Palladium International Limited, Nature Conservation Research Center and AJA Climate Solutions.



Yayu- Witate coffee coop processing plant



Human Resource

Currently, ECFF has 50 full time staff members, out of which 8 are administration and finances, and over 42 are technical and senior leadership staff that are highly skilled in coffee, forestry (conservation, sustainable use, PFM, restoration, reforestation), agroforestry practices, REDD+, innovative climate finance, landscape planning, climate adaptation and mitigation, capacity building (experts, smallholder farmers, cooperatives) and market linkage.



Coffee-in home garden.

Project implementation experience

Completed Research and Development Projects.

| No | Name of the project implemented | Donor | Geographic area | Duration |
|----|--|--|--|-----------|
| 1 | Conservation and use of the wild populations of <i>Coffea arabica</i> in the montane rainforests of Ethiopia (CoCE)*- CoCE I | Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), Germany | Bale and Illubabor in Oromia, Kafa & Bench-Maji in SNNP | 2002-2006 |
| 2 | Conservation and use of the wild populations of <i>Coffea arabica</i> in the montane rainforests of Ethiopia (CoCE)*, CoCE II | Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF), Germany | | 2006-2009 |
| 3 | Conservation of Biodiversity in Human Dominated Landscapes | German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany | Illubabor, Oromia | 2006 |
| 4 | The role of institutions for forest resource and livelihood management in East African forest landscapes (IFLEA) | Volkswagen Foundation | Borana, Guji, Jimma, Illubabor and North Shoa in Oromia; West Gojjam in Amhara | 2009-2012 |
| 5 | Forest Landscapes Institutions and Development in East Africa (ForLand) (for the implementation in Ethiopia) | International Bureau (DLR), BMBF, Germany | Borana, Guji, Jimma, Illubabor and North Shoa in Oromia; West Gojjam in Amhara | 2010-2013 |
| 6 | Mainstreaming Conservation and Community Benefits at Yayu Coffee Forest & Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia | German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), Germany | Illubabor in Oromia and Sheka in SNNP | 2012-2013 |
| 7 | Strengthening Implementation of the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve (SIY): A model site for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development | Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) | Illubabor, Oromia | 2013-2017 |

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|----|---|---|---|-----------|
| 8 | Exploring the Ecosystem Limits to Poverty Alleviation in African Forest-agriculture Landscapes (ECOLIMITS)- ESPA/EI Nino | NERC-ESPA/EINino Program, UK, with NCRC Ghana | Illubabor, Oromia | 2013-2017 |
| 9 | Improving food security in Africa through increased system productivity of biomass-based value webs (BiomassWeb) | BMBF, Germany via ZEF | Illubabor, Jimma, West Shoa, and Southwest Shoa, Oromia | 2013-2018 |
| 10 | Energy Efficient Technologies for Coffee Growers in Bedele and Gechi Woredas of Illu Abba Bora Zone, Oromia National Regional State | ICCO-Netherlands through the HoA-REC&N | Illuababor, Oromia | 2015-2016 |
| 11 | Comprehensive Cooperative Capacity Building Project in Oromia and Tigray National Regional States | CIDA Canada through ATA | Several zones in Oromia and Tigray | 2015-2017 |
| 12 | Diversifying Agriculture for Balanced Nutrition Through Fruits and Vegetables in Multi-storey Cropping Systems (Nutri HAF) | German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and German Federal Office for Food and Agriculture (BLE) | Illubabor, Oromia | 2015-2018 |
| 13 | Building a Climate Resilient Coffee Economy for Ethiopia | DFID, SCIP Fund, UK, with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew | Oromia, SNNP, Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara | 2012-2017 |
| 14 | Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and climate resilience at Yayu Biosphere Reserve | Darwin Initiative, with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew | Illubabor, Oromia | 2015-2018 |
| 15 | Trade-offs between Biosphere Reserve and Participatory Forest Management Approaches in Southwest Ethiopia, with case study on Yayu | The David and Lucile Packard Foundation | Illubabor, Oromia | 2019-2020 |

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|----|--|--|---|-----------------|
| 16 | The Economic Values of Coffea arabica Biodiversity in Ethiopia | DFID as subcontractor of Palladium/ P4F Project | Nationwide | 2020 |
| 17 | Conservation, Agriculture and Livelihoods in Oromia, phase I | Packard Foundation, through the Digital Green Foundation | Jimma zone. Oromia | 10/2020-09/2022 |
| 18 | Empowering communities - coffee as a model for ecosystem-friendly regional development | BMZ, Germany Via NABU- | Yayu CFBR, IlluAbabor zone, Oromia | 10/2020-12/2023 |
| 19 | Growth for the Future Programme - Biodiversity and nature conservation for resilient livelihoods – Majang Project (Bridging Project) | Sida, through Farm Africa | Majang Forest Biosphere Reserve, Gambella | 07/2022-06/2023 |

On-going Research and Development Projects

| No | Project title | Donor | Partners | Geographic area | Duration |
|----|--|---|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | FUTURES Program: My Forest, My Livelihoods, My Family | Packard Foundation | CARE Ethiopia, ODA, Kulich | Yayu CFBR, Illubabor & Buno Bedele, Oromia | 01/2021-09/2025 |
| 2 | Horn of Africa Environmental Sustainability and Resilience (HoA-ESR) Project – Borana-Marsabit Landscape | Sida Sweden | Horn of Africa Environment Center and Network, Addis Ababa University | Borana National Park, Oromia | 10/2020-09/2025 |
| 3 | Agroforestry for People, Peace and Prosperity in Southern Ethiopia's Coffee Growing Region | P4G secretariat, Korea Forest Service (KFS) & SK Forest | EFCCC, and KFS, GGGI, Tree Planet, and SK Forest | West Guji zone in Oromia and Gedo regional states | 10/2020-09/2024 |
| 4 | Supporting sustainable coffee production and conservation of forest ecosystems through climate –relevant and integrated landscape management of the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve | EU | Coffee & Tea Authority, Hans R. Neumann Foundation, PHE Ethiopia Consortium | Yayu CFBR, Illubabor & Buno Bedele zones, Oromia | 09/2021–08/2024 |

| No | Project title | Donor | Partners | Geographic area | Duration |
|----|---|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 5 | Conservation, Agriculture and Livelihoods in Oromia, phase 2 | Packard Foundation | Digital Green Foundation | Jimma zone. Oromia | 07/2022-06/2025 |
| 6 | AFR100 Project- Restoration of dry Afromontane forest around Debre Linanos Monastery and the surrounding landscape, Central Highlands of Ethiopia | WRI, AFR100 TerraMatch | Salale University | North Shoa Zone, Oromia | 05/2022 –04/2026 |
| 7 | Agroforestry for People, Peace and Prosperity in Southern Ethiopia's Coffee Growing Region | Korea Forest Service (KFS) | GGGI, EFD | West Guji zone in Oromia and Gedeo zone in SNNP regional states | 07/2022-12/2023 |
| 8 | Growth for the Future Programme - Biodiversity and nature conservation for resilient livelihoods – Majang Project (Bridging Project) | Sida | Farm Africa, and MELCA Ethiopia | Forest conservation, biosphere reserve management, forest based livelihoods diversification, coffee | 07/2022-06/2023 |
| 9 | Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forested Landscapes in Southwestern Ethiopia (CSMFL) | Sida | GGGI, and iDE | Oromia (Jimma, B Bedele, Ilubabor zones) and SWEP (Kafa, Dawuro, Konta zones) | 01/2023-12/2026 |
| 10 | Nature-Based Solutions for Sustainable and Inclusive Development (NSSID) | Sida | Farm Africa and consortium members | Seven regions. ECFF responsible for Sheka zone of SWEP regional state | 06/2023 – 05/2027 |

Major relevant advisory services and reports:

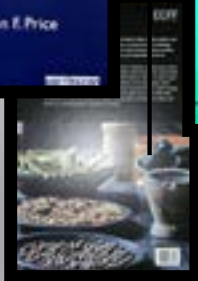
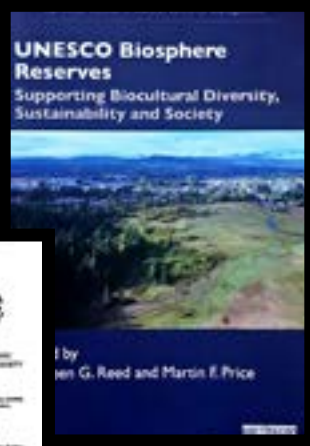
- 2011. Payment for ecosystem services valuation for the Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve. Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute.
- 2013. Bale Mountains Eco-region REDD+ Project Design Document preparation, with NCRC, IDESAM and Oxford University, for OFWE and Farm Africa
- 2015. Coffee: Ethiopia's Gift to the World. The traditional

production systems as living examples of crop domestication, and sustainable production and an assessment of different certification schemes. For Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, and ISD.

- 2020. Forest Coffee Management Guideline. For JICA
- 2020. The Economic Values of *Coffea arabica* Biodiversity in Ethiopia. For Palladium International Limited, P4F Project
- 2021. Developing Strategic National Framework for Ethiopian Forest Coffee Sector. For GIZ, P4F Project
- 2023-2024. Feasibility study of Nature-based Climate Solutions in SW Ethiopia. For AJA Climate Solutions.



Kids playing at Yayu.



Publications

Some selected relevant publications

2024. Landscape and management influences on smallholder agroforestry yields show shifts during a climate shock. *Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment*, in press.
2021. The potential for income improvement and biodiversity conservation via specialty coffee in Ethiopia. *PeerJ* 9(3):e10621; DOI: 10.7717/peerj.10621
2020. Sustainability at the Centres of Origin: Lessons from UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Ethiopia. In: *UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: Supporting Biocultural Diversity, Sustainability and Society* (Maureen G. Reed and Martin F. Price, Editors). Earthscan. DOI: 10.4324/9780429428746-13
2019. Conservation and Utilization of Ethiopia Coffee Genetic Resources and its Environments. In *Proceedings of Ethiopian Coffee Science Society (ECSS) Inaugural Conference held on 7-8 April 2017, Jimma, Ethiopia*. (Esaya Mendesil et al., eds). PP 1-12, ECSS.
2019. Contribution of non-timber forest products to the livelihood of farmers in coffee growing areas: evidence from Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*. DOI: 10.1080/09640568.2019.1679615
2019. The structures underpinning vulnerability: Examining landscape-society interactions in a smallholder coffee agroforestry system. *Environmental Research Letters*, May 2019. DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/ab2280
2019. Least concern to endangered: Applying climate change projections profoundly influences the extinction risk assessment for wild Arabica coffee. *Global Change Biolog* 25:390–403; DOI: 10.1111/gcb.14341

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2018. Pursuing climate resilient coffee in Ethiopia – A critical review. *Geoforum* 91: 108-116. DOI: 10.1016/j.geoforum.2018.02.032
2018. Understanding Poverty in Cash-crop Agro-forestry Systems: Evidence from Ghana and Ethiopia. *Ecological Economics* 154:31-41. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2018.07.021
2018. Woody species diversity and coffee production in remnant semi-natural dry Afromontane Forest in Zegie Peninsula, Ethiopia. *Agroforestry Systems*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10457-018-0285-8>
2018. Analysis of plant species diversity and forest structure in Arero dry Afromontane forest of Borena zone, South Ethiopia. *Tropical Plant Research* 5: 129-140. DOI: 10.22271/tpr.2018.v5.i2.018.

2018. Coffee Atlas of Ethiopia. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK.

2017. Resilience potential of the Ethiopian coffee sector under climate change. *Nature Plants* 3, article number 17081 (doi:10.1038/nplants.2017.81)

2016. Coffee Farming and Climate Change in Ethiopia: Impacts, Forecasts, Resilience and Opportunities-Summary. SCIP, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK. Pp. 37.

2016. The role of traditional coffee management in forest conservation and carbon storage in the Jimma Highlands, Ethiopia. ***Forests Trees and Livelihoods***, June 2016.
2015. Conservation Planning and Management: Developing a Zoning Concept for Yayu Coffee Forest Biosphere Reserve, Oromia Region, Ethiopia. In *Socio-ecological Change in Rural Ethiopia. Understanding Local Dynamics in Environmental Planning and Natural Resources Management*. (Till Stellmacher, ed.), PP 61-74. Peter Lang Academic Research.
2014. The Marginalized and Poorest in Different Communities and Settings of Ethiopia. In *Marginality: Addressing the Nexus of Poverty, Exclusion and Ecology*. (J. von Braun and F.W. Gatzweiler, eds.), PP 365-381. Springer, Heidelberg. DOI 10.1007/978-94-007-7061-4

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2013. Coffee is Ethiopia's gift to the world. In *Coffee- a global success* (H.W. Lack, K. Grotz and Tadesse W. Gole, eds.). PP 12-19, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Berlin.
2013. Coffee as a sustainable forest product. In *Coffee- a global success* (H.W. Lack, K. Grotz and Tadesse W. Gole, eds.). PP 72-79, Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Berlin.
2013. Forest Governance Reforms in Eastern Africa: A Comparative Analysis of Institutional, Livelihood, and Forest Sustainability Outcomes. In *Institutional and Livelihood Changes in East African Forest Landscapes: Decentralization and Institutional Change for Sustainable Forest Management in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia*. (Franz W. Gatzweiler, ed), PP 17-48.
- 2012. The impact of climate change on indigenous Arabica coffee (*Coffea arabica*): predicting future trends and identifying priorities. PLoS ONE 7(11): e47981. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0047981**
2012. Importance of regional climates for plant species distribution patterns in moist Afromontane forest. *Journal of Vegetation Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1654-1103.2012.01477.x>
- 2008. Floristic composition and environmental factors characterizing coffee forests in southwest Ethiopia. *Forest Ecology and Management* 255: 2138-2150**

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