Visit November 2023

Documentation of afforestation and results
Dukem, Oromia
Showcase for successful afforestation

Akaki nursery

Bilbilo
Result from forests: clean water near the village, throughout the year
Result from forests: increased production on the fields below the mountain
It all starts in the tree nursery
The small seedlings are then planted to the mountains ...
... and after a few years they grow to a wonderful forest!
Below the forest, new springs develop ...
... and this former gully has changed into grassland for animals.
Dara, Sidamo

Video documentation training

1. Nursery
2. Forest
3. Homestead & Coffee
4. Water
Interview with 2 presidents of women associations
Preparation of collected seed ...
... and carefully placing the seeds into pots.
Zoom-in to the activities at the nursery
Distribution of fruit tree seedlings
Explanation how trees change the area
Documentation of activities for soil accumulation and moisture collection
Cutting grass in the forest instead of free grazing
‘Milling’ flour from Insete for ‘Kocho bread’
Coffee harvesting
Feeding animals at home with grass from the forest instead of free grazing
Spring development below the forest
After dinner: video editing and translation
Gulemakeda, Tigray
Mr. Bahlbi points to the next forest to grow in Rigba Medebay
Indigenous trees producing new seeds: for natural regeneration and to be collected
Flowering for medical use and for bees producing honey
Gulemakeda, Tigray
Dense forest at the bottom of the mountain
Area for next plantation in July 2024
8-year-old forest around the mountain top
Do you find the monkey? Wild life is coming back in the 8 year old forest
The team that made it possible!
Adwa, Tigray

Grat Hamesteh
Trees allow wheat production on land which was bare 7 years ago.
The start was 2011 with instructions, today the land feeds people and animals.
Grat Hamesteh hill fully covered with forest.
Adwa, Tigray
Hard work in 2013 to prepare the perfect ground for seedlings to grow
And the trees liked it, they did grow well!

Congratulations, outstanding results!
In 2013 the valley showcased all farming activities in rural Ethiopia.
Today it shows how forests change lives!
Adwa, Tigray
Farmer with exceptional harvest in 2023 because of forest and stop of run-off ...
... here he himself planted 500 trees!
... and the destructive Gully is reclaimed and now productive, with a small creek.
Adwa, Tigray
Fully recovered mountain range
Below: new spring developed
Farmers have prepared seedbed (here: pepper) for second production by irrigation after rain-fed crop production.
Discussion with the farmers: during the war, all material for irrigation was looted.
January 2014
(after the rainy season)

June 2023
(before the rainy season)

River Diversion

Old Ficus tree

Retrieved from Google Earth historic pictures
Fruit trees and vegetation all around the irrigation dam
Mr. Ysaak explains how farmers divert the water from the main canal to the fields.
Teff field with Mango, banana and many other useful trees for moisture and fertility
Wheat field with Papaya, Mango, Banana, Guava, and Banana
It starts with forests covering the mountains.
... they turn wide areas into agricultural powerhouses with food for thousands ...
... while there is no more production after the rain-fed harvest without irrigation
Valley for plantation 2024: river almost dry by November, stones indicate high erosion
Erosion on the mountains on both sides
Plant for Life, Tigray

St. Yared Church
February 2017  

November 2023
Impressions from Ethiopia
Long walks on steep mountains
(rest under a Ficus tree near a new spring)
Nice people (and always many people)
Exceptional coffee!
Breath-taking views (sometimes even dangerous)
Visited places never been before
Fresh, tasty food
... somewhat spicy
We are grateful for the support from many donors. With you, such results become reality!