

Project Update: August 2014

It is our fourth report and a lot has been done during this reporting time. The first and foremost one is the big regional workshop that has been conducted at Maze National Park. Participants from different stakeholders of formal and non-formal institutions were invited. Higher regional political administrators, different formal institution leaders, local informal institution leaders, task groups from the respective surrounding PAs, youth representatives and school directors were the focal groups that the workshop has been prepared for. All the participating stakeholders were identified in advance and provided with invitation letter outlining the central agenda of the workshop.

Accordingly, the workshop was highly interactive and argumentative inspired with big concerns and devotion. Mosaics of valuable ideas, suggestions, and recommendations have been forwarded from respective stakeholders. Eventually all the workshop participants and especially the higher political delegates, forwarded their admiration and appreciation for what has been done by the park administration and for the Rufford Foundation for the financial support without whom all these enthusiastic success would not been anticipated. The workshop was finally completed forwarding the following land marking decisions.

1. The political leaders shall be harmonized to support the informal task forces and stabilise them.
2. The task forces shall be institutionalised soon with formal leaders and get acceptance with house of representative of Woreda Administrative providing support and evaluate their performance.
3. The park's administrative endurance, devotion and performance shall be the role model for the nearby other parks in the region.

In addition, brainstorming discussions on the essence of wild lives, biodiversity, conservation, participation and sustainability was carried out with selected students, teachers and school directors of the surrounding elementary and junior and secondary schools. Besides, field days and educational contests were organised and conducted among different neighbouring elementary and junior schools' students. At last, some schools have established cultural and environmental clubs to their belonging schools. The entire programme will be broadcast via national and local mass media (television and radio).



Left: Alehegn Taye, coordinator of MNP, reporting to stakeholders'. Middle: Participants. Right: Student contest on environmental issues and coffee ceremony.