



**FRANKFURT
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Date: October 10th 2011

PO Box 100003
Addis Ababa
ETHIOPIA

Addis Ababa:
Tel +251 (0)116 187270
Fax +251(0)116 622051

Bale office:
+251 (0)22 1190757/8

Lallibela office:
+251 (0)33 3360337

Mehal Meda office
+251 116851326

Fzsethiopia@fzs.org
zelealemtefera@fzs.org

www.fzs.org
www.guassaarea.org
www.balemountains.org

To Pierre Carret
Advisor to the Executive Director
Grant Director for Eastern Afromontane
CEPF

Subject: ETH-Grzimek/ FZS-Improved community and Ecological Resilience for the Guassa Community Conservation Area.

Dear Pierre Carret

Thank you for your letter dated 25th of September 2013 and we are very much pleased to hear our proposal has received a general approval by the management of CEPF.

Please, find the answer for your queries regarding the Process framework and involuntary restrictions of access to natural resource in the following pages and the rest of the answers for the queries are corrected on the online application. We have attached the letter from the head of the district administration and council chairman and other relevant documents with this covering letter.

Regarding the use of the 4WD vehicle a logbook will be used to show accurately the use of CEPF funds paying for fuel for project purpose can be accurately recorded and this is a routine procedure with all our vehicles here at FZS. Finally, we still want to stick with the 1st of January, 2014 as a starting date of the project for project management and annual auditing reason.

Kind regards,

Zelealem Tefera (PhD)
Frankfurt Zoological Society-Ethiopia
Country Representative

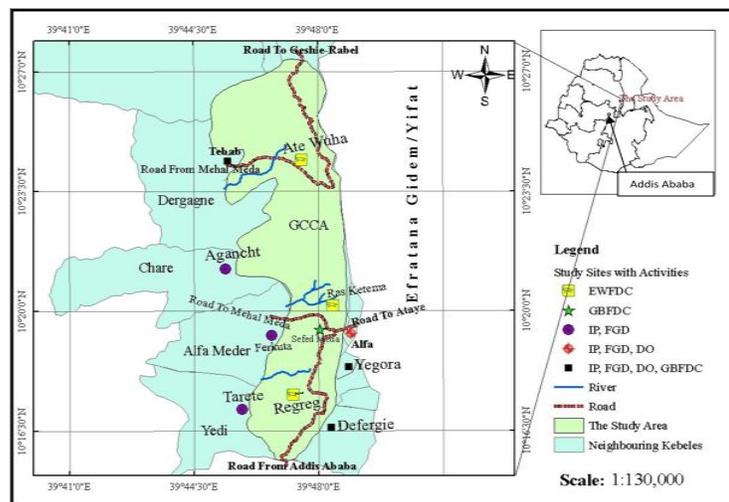
Process Framework for Involuntary Restrictions

Project: CEPF: ETH-63370: Improved Community and Ecological Resilience for the Guassa Community Conservation Area

Applicant: Grzimek's Help for Threatened Wildlife, Inc

Project Background

The Guassa Community Conservation Area (GCCA) is a community-based natural resource conservation initiative that aims to support the conservation of the unique biodiversity of the Afroalpine ecosystem in the CI Eastern Afro-Montane Hotspot. The area is known for its population of the gelada, the endangered Ethiopian wolf and a variety of endemic birds, as well as a unique plant assemblage. The ~98 km² of afroalpine habitat provide *Festuca* grass for thatching, household and farm implements, fuel-wood collection and grazing for livestock during times of environmental stress. The area lies in the densely populated and food insecure area of the Ethiopian highlands. Poorer households try to eke out a living on small and environmentally degraded agriculture areas, and with average landholdings of 0.3-1.0 hectares (generally insufficient to provide all food needs), they are sometimes forced to illegally harvest the community conservation area's natural resources.



The Guassa Area has been managed under an indigenous common property natural resources management regime for many hundreds of years under a local institution known as the Qero System until it was disbanded following the 1975 Agrarian Reform in the country. The Qero System arose to guide and control natural resource use and implement voluntary restrictions among the rightful users of the natural resources of the Guassa Area. The user community valued the grass for thatching and making various household and farm implements, collected firewood from the area, as well as using the area for grazing livestock, particularly in times of environmental stress like drought. Therefore, the Guassa Area is a vital natural resource for inhabitants of 9 Kebeles (Villages) who are regarded as rightful users by being able to trace their ancestral lineage to the pioneer fathers. The 1975 Agrarian reform nationalised all rural land and turned it in to a state property and abolished all private and communal holdings of rural

land. Following this reform the common property management regime in Guassa collapsed and the area became an open-access resource as the machineries of the indigenous natural resource management institution were destroyed. As the natural resources deteriorated over some decades, the community vocalised their discontent and appealed to the local government administration.

Consultations for the formation of the GCCA and associated byelaws

In the late 1990s, as pressure from the community increased, a study in the Guassa Area, supported by the UK Darwin Initiative, highlighted the importance of the area in terms of biodiversity conservation as well as the past indigenous natural resources management and the need for participatory community-based natural resources management. In the early 2000s, support was provided by FZS to facilitate the identification of the rightful users in the 9 kebeles and a village level committee setup with 5 people representing the village administration, religious leaders, elders, women and youth were elected to represent each kebele user group. Later, an inter-Kebele council was needed to coordinate and manage the area as a Conservation Council. This Guassa Community Conservation Council (GCCC) now comprises the 5 representatives from each of the 9 Kebeles and also sectoral offices with interest in the management of the natural resource and is the highest governing body for Guassa Area management. The GCCC drafted a byelaw which was extensively discussed and changed at kebele and user group level before final drafting. The final draft byelaw, after comments were taken into account, was later discussed at the Woreda council level and after agreement in that council, became the management regulation of the Guassa Area.

Byelaw

The byelaw determines the closing and the opening time of the Guassa Area for grass cutting, firewood collection and grazing and outlines activities that are permanently prohibited, such as the killing of any wildlife and setting fire etc in the area. It also stipulates the fine that is levelled for each illegal activity as agreed by the community, which are agricultural expansion, cutting grass in closed season, livestock grazing in closed season and closed areas. The closed season of the Guassa area usually lasts for three years but can be shortened or extended as the user community determines, for example during extended drought or crop failure the closed season can be shortened. The community elect community scouts who have the authority to arrest or file charges under the Woreda (district) court or local Kebele court. This community scouts gets no payment for their service of enforcing the byelaw, but it does count towards the community service that is obligatory for all.

The kebele level conservation councils meet approximately monthly at the village level to examine the pattern of illegal incidents and other monitoring data. This gives a chance for any issues pertaining to GCCA operations to be raised and discussed. These kebele councils feed information and issues up to the woreda GCCC which should meet twice a year. A strong foundation for sustainable conservation management is now in place with the basic operations of the GCCC and with community scouts and monitors

conducting resource protection and monitoring and work with the local court to prosecute those breaking byelaws. Community-based tourism in the area has started to generate financing for the area but is not yet fulfilling all needs.

Impact of resource limitation on communities.

The project aims to strengthen and institutionalise long term sustainable natural resource use for all members of the user community, thus reversing the previous trend of allowing short term free access and associated resource destruction. Thus all community members should benefit in the long term, even if there are short term impacts where user groups cannot continue to harvest Guassa grass, obtain firewood or use grazing at any point. Some households, who have few if any assets, and insufficient land for self-sufficiency may thus in the short term suffer adversely by being denied access to resource from which they can generate cash (eg from selling grass) or obtain fuelwood.

Mitigation of adverse impacts

Mitigation of adverse impacts is a core project activity, through the reduction of resource dependency and livelihood diversification, specifically targeting the poorest sector of society, or the landless, the groups most likely to break the byelaws. Thus activities are specifically designed to mitigate adverse impacts of restriction of access to resources. For example, the project will support honey and handicraft production and develop markets outside the area for a Guassa brand, and support development of tourism in the area. Livelihood mitigation activities will be limited to members of the 9 Kebeles who are the rightful users of the Guassa area but focussing on the most disadvantaged sector of the community in the kebeles nearest to the Guassa Area, as these are the community members most likely to engage in illegal activities. Mitigation activities will be limited to livelihood activities that are legal and conservation/environmentally compatible.

Grievance and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms

Complaints from local communities, government or organisations regarding the operation of the project or the Guassa Area functioning, can be reported at Kebele level to the kebele administration and also through the Kebele to the Woreda administration office and even to the regional partner the Amhara Regional Bureau of Culture, Tourism and Parks Development. These complain could be informal, where anonymity is maintained, or formal where clear issues need resolved. The national agency for Charities and Societies coordinates and licenses the activities of all NGOs in the country can also receive complaints at any time, although this is based in Addis Ababa.

Conflict resolution is then conducted in cooperation with local mechanisms. In most cases this can be resolved locally at kebele level at the KCCC, but otherwise can be taken to the woreda CCC if resolution is complex.



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 THE AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE
 NORTH SHEWA ZONE MENZE GERA MIDIR WOREDA
 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Reff.No H-8/322/05

Date 10/08/2013

To Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 500
 Arlington, VA 22202
 USA

Subject: Supporting letter to Frankfurt Zoological Society Activities in the Guassa Community Conservation Area.

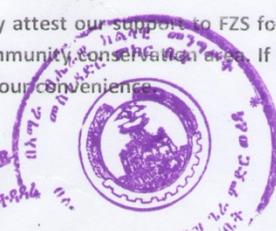
I was requested by the Frankfurt Zoological (FZS) office to provide letters of endorsement for the activity the society is conducting in the Guassa Community Conservation Area (GCCA). As the chairman of the Guassa Community Conservation Area Conservation Council and the Administrator of the Menz-Gera Woreda (District) I here by give my endorsement for of the planned activities to take place in areas of Beekeeping development and creating a marketing link, development of artisans product, ecotourism development, which are geared towards the diversification of livelihood to the community living in four Kebeles (villages) round the community conservation area. We have agreed this community livelihood improving activities to target the landless, marginalised and regular offenders of the community by-law towards the conservation effort of the community their by trying to curb illegal activities. Together with this the project is aiming to develop the community conservation effort by providing capacity building to the community conservation council as well as to the community elected scouts and community monitors.

The FZS have been operating in the Guassa Community Conservation Area for the last nine years and has been a major supporter in our effort to realise our dream to become a recognised community conservation area in the country as well as providing the much needed support in building our capacity for effective conservation of the Afro-alpine ecosystem as well as the unique biodiversity therein. The Frankfurt Zoological Society has been a sole partner in reviving a century old community-based conservation in the Guassa area. The establishment of the first legally recognised community conservation area wouldn't have been realised with out an able support of the society.

With these few remarks I strongly attest our support to FZS for the development of the project to be supported by CEPF for our community conservation area. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Kind regards;

Mulugeta Kebede Agualale
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Phone: 011-6850103 / 0116850092
 Fax: 011-6850093 E-Mail aste_mgm@yahoo.com

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 Stop AIDS Make The Promise!