



## Fighting the destruction of “Harapan Rainforest” in Indonesia

### Challenges and successes of a pilot project

Since 2008, the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) has been financing climate and biodiversity projects in developing and newly industrialising countries, as well as in countries in transition. This newsletter is published twice a year to report on news from NABU’s ICI projects.

Challenges are growing in the “Harapan Rainforest”-Project on Sumatra. Deforestation due to illegal logging has been increasing dramatically, especially in the north-east of Harapan. After cutting down the large, valuable trees for industrial marketing, the sites are cleared by slash-and-burn and turned into oil palm plantations. Together with the Harapan team, the Indonesian authorities are intensifying their efforts to stop the destruction of the forest and to conserve the ecosystem and its functions. A microlight aircraft was purchased to help monitor the forest.

The threat to the Harapan area was also one of the topics discussed by Agus Budi Utomo, the executive director of Indonesian BirdLife partner, Burung Indonesia, during his work meetings at the NABU headquarters in Berlin earlier this year. “Harapan Rainforest” is a joint initiative of Burung Indonesia, the UK’s Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and BirdLife International.

### Reforestation and Tree Nurseries

During the first project year project staff conducted test plantings and established tree nurseries. By now, full-scale reforestation has started and more than 1,740 hectares of degraded rainforest have been reforested with half a million seedlings. It is planned that 4,000 hectares will be reforested by the end of the project in 2013.



*Tree nursery by the indigenous Bathin Sembilan people*

### Supporting local communities

The project has hired four teachers who educate 52 children from indigenous families. Classes take place in the new “Harapan Rainforest School”, a primary school with two classrooms and a library. This education programme is part of the management agreement between the project and the indigenous people in the area. The agreement also includes free healthcare for the local Bathin families. For this purpose, a hospital has been built and an ambulance procured last year.

Progress has also been made on the income-generating activities jointly developed with the local communities. By now, nearly 300 jobs have been created in the Harapan Project, and more than 80 percent of the staff come from surrounding communities. The

tree nurseries and the reforestation work in particular have created reliable alternative income sources for a number of indigenous and local non-indigenous people. Forty Bathin Sembilan families are earning a regular income from their work in the nurseries, and 66 indigenous and local families work as tree planters.



*52 children visit the “Harapan Rainforest School”*

The beekeeping initiative started in June 2011 and was officially inaugurated at the end of that year by the Governor of Jambi. Seventeen families have received beekeeping training. At the same time farmers collecting honey from wild bees in the forest are being supported with improved processing and marketing methods.

### **Harapan’s biological diversity**

After nearly five years of monitoring, the occurrence of the largest gibbon, the siamang, in Harapan has been confirmed. In addition, the number of recorded bird species in the project area has risen to 304. For further research on the wildlife in Harapan, camera traps have been installed at 131 spots in the forest. You can find two short videos showing pictures from Harapan on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search for ‘Harapan Rainforest camera trap film’).

Furthermore, negotiations are underway on a research partnership with a German university: Harapan Rainforest is to become one of the study areas of the Collaborative Research Centre on ‘Ecological and Socioeconomic Functions of Tropical Lowland Rainforest Transformation Systems (Sumatra, Indonesia)’ at the University of Göttingen ([www.uni-goettingen.de](http://www.uni-goettingen.de)).



*Camera traps are important for learning more about Harapan’s wildlife*

### **Further support**

Last year, the “Harapan Rainforest”-Project managed to win the support of the Danish International Development Agency (Danida) which will contribute 65 million Danish kroner (approx. 9 million Euros) until 2014. This is an important achievement, as most of the funds will go towards the reforestation of the most severely degraded areas in the north-east of the Harapan concession.

Two German film teams, from ZDF and Deutsche Welle, visited the project area during the first half of 2012. You can watch the film by Deutsche Welle on the “Harapan Project” on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search for ‘Harapan Global 3000’).



*German camera team documenting illegally deforested area in the “Harapan Rainforest”*

### **A lighthouse project in Indonesia**

“Harapan Rainforest” is the first area to receive a licence for ecosystem restoration in Indonesia. As a pilot project, it will serve as a model for an additional 24 million hectares of Indonesian rainforest which are currently neither used nor protected. With 100,000 hectares, the project area is larger than the city of Berlin and harbours innumerable threatened animal and plant species, including the Sumatran tiger, the Sumatran elephant, the Asian tapir, and Storm’s stork, the world’s rarest stork species.

## **Alternative livelihoods in Kafa Biosphere Reserve**

Poverty is one of the causes of the destruction of mountain cloud forests, and thus a contributing factor in climate change in Ethiopia. Therefore, the ICI project uses alternative income generation as one approach to conservation for example through ecotourism. Besides the construction of a model lodge, an open air museum and tourism infrastructure, the Kafa ecotourism concept focuses on capacity building and the promotion of promising local initiatives to strengthen community-based tourism.

### **Ecotourism instead of deforestation**

To get ready for international guests, workers in the service and hospitality industry need opportunities for learning and training. Together with the Ethiopian BirdLife partner, the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), NABU has developed a training plan and consulted with experts. In total, 280 people will be trained in seminars and workshops on tourism-related services and ecotourism in Kafa as part of the climate and forest protection project. The participants mostly work in hotels and restaurants, but representatives from the local government and communities (e.g. tourist guides, horse renters, or local goods producers) will also benefit from the programme.

The range of possible activities inside Kafa Biosphere Reserve will be increased too. Plans for the required infrastructure have been finalised, and construction work will start as the rainy season ends in October. Soon, an information centre will offer tourists infor-

mation on the diverse choice of tours and visits around Bonga, the capital of Kafa Region. In total, ten hiking trails with six viewing towers, seven picnic spots, and two campsites will be built, mainly with traditional and local materials. Information boards will offer the visitors details about the special features of each area.



*Always worth a visit: Kafa Biosphere Reserve*

### **A museum for Kafa**

The marketing of Kafa region as a tourism destination focuses on wild coffee and its natural environment, but there is also an intriguing regional culture and history. To make them accessible to visitors, NABU is collaborating closely with the local government Department of Culture and Tourism and the local communities to recreate ancient historical buildings of the former Kafa Kingdom as an open air museum. Through interviews with locals from the surrounding settlements, especially with old people, important information on the Kafa culture was captured and has informed the design of the museum. The new open air museum will be built on the site of the former palace of the Kafa King, which was identified by archaeologists.

### **Worth a visit**

As it has proven difficult to make and manage high-end accommodation for Western visitors, a model lodge will be either newly built or created by renovating an existing guesthouse. In the long term, the lodge will be managed by the local community in collaboration with a tourism company. Talks are currently being held with various private businesses and an association that promotes local development in Kafa. The construction or renovation of the lodge is set to start before the end of this year.

A number of tour operators from Germany and Ethiopia have already expressed their interest in including Kafa in their itineraries. Within this year, tour operators and journalists will visit Kafa to assess the potential of the region. They are sure to be impressed by its unique qualities.



*Really special: Kafa's fauna and flora*

#### **Tree nurseries and fuel-saving stoves**

By now, there are 53 tree nurseries producing seedlings for the reforestation of natural forests and for community plantations. Most of the planting work has already been completed. Similarly, the distribution of 11,200 fuel-saving stoves is almost done, but demand for them shows no sign of diminishing, offering a continued income for the stove producers who were trained through the project. Also the rights of use to a total of 10,000 hectares of local forest are being transferred on local communities. By now, local communities have prepared management and use plans for 5,000 hectares, so the forests products can be used in a sustainable manner. These activities are accompanied by environmental education programmes in local communities and schools to raise awareness for the importance of forests and climate. The ongoing forest and climate monitoring documents how the project influences the local forests.

#### **Invitation to Addis Ababa**

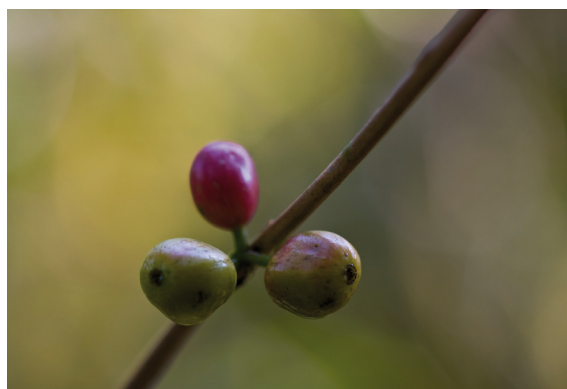
To mark the halftime of the project duration, NABU invited representatives from various levels of government in Ethiopia, partners, subcontractors, members of local communities, and other interested person to a workshop held in Addis Ababa in March 2012. Looking back on the results achieved so far, the participants felt enthusiastic and confident. One aspect that received particular praise was the strong invol-

vement of local organisations, governments, and communities, as this guarantees that certain activities will be continued even after the end of the project.



#### **Treasuring genetic diversity**

As the origin and centre of the genetic diversity of arabica coffee (*Coffea arabica*), the last mountain cloud forests in south-western Ethiopia are recognised as a special habitat and an invaluable genetic resource. The NABU project, which terminates in October 2013, will serve as an international model for climate and resource protection in combination with sustainable regional development.



*The home of coffee: Ethiopia's mountain cloud forests*

### **Successes for the buffer zone of the Western Caucasus**

Good news also comes from NABU's ICI project in the Caucasus region. With a cooperation agreement signed in January 2012 at NABU Headquarters in Berlin, the Ministry for Environment of the Krasnodar Region has committed to support NABU's projects, including the climate protection project in the Western Caucasus, and in particular the buffer zone projected to decrease harmful human impacts on the Western Caucasus World Natural Heritage Site. Another success is the official endorsement of the Mezmaï Nature Park planned in the Krasnodar Region. In March of this year, NABU, the Ministry of Tourism of the Krasnodar Region, and the Russian company

Northern Caucasus Resorts agreed to go forward with this project. Mezmaj Nature Park will close a gap between the Western Caucasus World Heritage Site established in 1999 and the Kamyshanova Polyana Landscape Reserve located east of it. Beside ancient yew and box forests, the Mezmaj area harbours many tertiary relict plant species. Mezmaj Nature Park, together with three other reserves, will be part of the buffer zone around the World Heritage Site. Illegal logging, waste deposition and inappropriate lighting of fire will be minimised. The new nature park will also contribute to the development of ecotourism in this region.

#### **New members for the Business Initiative South Russia**

Strong support for NABU's work in the Caucasus has recently come from the first members of the Business Initiative South Russia. It was founded by the NABU International Foundation for Nature to secure long-term funding for its projects in the areas of nature conservation, climate protection, and also development of renewable energy infrastructure in South Russia and to create a platform for cross-sector exchange. In January of this year, when its CEO, Sergey Chernin, signed the membership registration, the Russian company Biogazenergostroy became the first business to join the Initiative.



*Sergey Chernin signing the membership registration*

Biogazenergostroy focuses on the development of renewable energy production in Russia and specialises in the construction and operation of biogas plants. It was followed, in May 2012, by another new member, the producer of heating technology, Viessmann, which has been a cooperation partner of NABU since 2007.

#### **First project phase sealed with signatures**

In July 2012, NABU President Olaf Tschimpke and the Prime Minister of the Russian Republic of Adygea, Murat Kumpilov, signed a memorandum of understanding towards the designation of a buffer zone around the World Heritage Site, thus sealing the completion of the first phase in the four-year project. NABU publicised the agreement at the meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in the Russian city of Saint Petersburg.

The first subcontracted project activities, including forest condition analysis and feasibility studies, were concluded by the end of the first project phase. Other activities are yet to be conducted, including the selection of renaturation and reforestation sites, the preparation of forest management plans for sustainable use, the establishment of plantations and nurseries, and trainings and seminars on sustainable forest use and plantation tending.

#### **A unique habitat**

The Western Caucasus World Heritage Site is Europe's only extensive high-mountain landscape largely unchanged by humans. NABU's ICI project, which aims at the long-term protection of the ecosystem, contributes significantly to the conservation of biological diversity, especially the remaining centuries-old Nordmann fir forests. In addition, the region is an important habitat for many threatened wildlife species, including lynx, wolf, brown bear, and even endemic species like the Caucasian wisent, which place the World Heritage Site among the world's most important biodiversity hotspots.



*The Western Caucasus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

## Overview of the International Climate Initiative

The International Climate Initiative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) serves as a supplement to the German development cooperation with a clear focus on climate protection. Five years into its operation, ICI includes 277 projects in more than 60 partner countries and has spent a total of 634 million Euros. The projects are mostly implemented by KfW Entwicklungsbank and the German International Cooperation (GIZ). Other project partners include multilateral organisations and NGOs, research institutions, but also private businesses. Currently, most ICI projects (58 percent) target renewable energy production and energy efficiency. About 27 percent of the funds go to projects for the protection and sustainable use of natural carbon sinks like forests and peat lands, including REDD+ projects. 14.5 percent of all ICI projects target measures for climate change adaptation. NABU vice president and head of the international department, Thomas Tennhardt, represents NABU in the ICI Advisory Group. NABU currently runs three ICI projects, all of which aim at the conservation of forests with high-biodiversity and sustainable regional development.

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