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Kooperativen in Äthiopien und Nomaden im Klimawandel

Cooperative Development in Ethiopia

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1. Historical Overview of Cooperatives

Traditional cooperatives associations existed along the Ethiopian society in the form of “iqub” (by voluntarily pooling financial resources), “Jigie” or “Wonfel” (labour resource mobilization to overcome seasonal labour peaks), and ‘idir’ (which is reciprocal insurance mechanism whereby members contribute membership fees in kind or in cash to meet social needs including wedding and funeral ceremonies). Following this traditional form of cooperatives, Ethiopian Airlines Workers’ Saving and Credit Cooperative was established in 1956. But the history of formal cooperatives in Ethiopia dates back to 1960, the time when the first cooperatives directive was enacted. Modern form of cooperatives started in Ethiopia during the ruling era of Emperor Haileselassie I in 1960 and the first legislative Decree No.44/1960 called “Farm Workers Cooperatives Decree”. During the military regime, the Peasant Associations were given legal status by proclamation No. 71/1975. In this proclamation, the objectives, powers and duties of Peasant Associations, service cooperatives and agricultural producer cooperatives were clearly stated. The Cooperative Societies Proclamation No. 138/1978 was issued later in order to include other type of cooperatives like housing, thrift and credit and handicrafts, etc.

All the efforts made to restructure the cooperative movement based on these proclamations were essentially geared towards direct control of the cooperatives and turning them into government and political instruments rather than socio economic development institutions. During the period (1966-1974), about 149 cooperatives were established throughout the country of which 99 were multipurpose, 19 SACCOs, 19 consumers’ and 17 handicrafts cooperatives (Lelisa, 2000). However, the number of cooperatives significantly increased during the Derg regime (1974-1991) with about 10,524 primary cooperatives having 4,529,259 members. During this time, the cooperatives were primarily designed for transforming the country’s socio-political system to a command economy. At the time, membership was not as such on voluntarily basis, rather it was mandatory to be a member of any cooperative, prices were centrally set by the government, output marketing was made on quota basis and as a result farmers developed negative connotation towards cooperatives and that residual

effect is still hampering cooperative development in Ethiopia.

The Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy (1995), the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (2002-2004), the Food Security Strategy (2004-2006), the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) (2006 -2010) and the current Growth and Transformation Plan - all acknowledge that cooperatives play key roles in the implementation of these strategies. For instance, Ethiopia’s Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (FDRE, 2002: 43) includes cooperatives as one of its main instruments for agricultural development “to organize, strengthen and diversify autonomous cooperatives to provide better marketing services and serve as a bridge between small scale farmers (peasants) and the non-peasant private sector” have been targeted. Cooperatives are considered as instruments for improving smallholder farmers’ productivity and promoting smallholders commercialization.

Since 1994, many proclamations and legislations have been issued to revitalize the cooperatives in Ethiopia. To this end (Proclamation 85/1994, published in FDRE [1994], 1), legal reforms in 1998 and 2004 were introduced to reinforce these principles and strengthen membership incentives by improving members’ rights in the areas of ownership, voting, share transfers, and risk management (Proclamations 147/1998 and 402/2004). However, the cooperative legislations encompass a number of pitfalls. Dawit et al. (2010) identified some of

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these shortcomings including lack of legislative frame for establishing cooperative bank, legal aspects of if members of below 18 years of age are elected to leadership positions and made accountable for their wrong doings, how the saved money is distributed among cooperative members upon liquidation of cooperatives, how donated fund or property should be utilized in the case of cooperative liquidation, laws governing employment of cooperative employees, etc. Generally, this latest proclamation is more comprehensive and is fully consistent with the Universal Cooperative Principles. Ethiopia, besides enacting cooperatives proclamations, has formulated five years cooperative development program. This shows that the government has fully realized the contribution of cooperatives to economic and social development, food security and poverty reduction in the country.

2. Current status of cooperatives

2.1 Institutional landscape

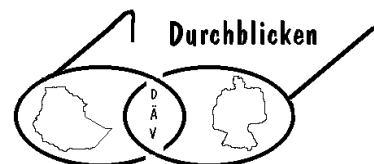
The government established federal and regional cooperative institutions that facilitate the organization of cooperatives. In 2006, the Federal Cooperative Agency (FCA) was organized at the federal level to provide supports and capacity building for regional cooperative institutions¹. The FCA is the highest government structure for cooperative promotion and control in Ethiopia. FCA has the mandate of overseeing the appropriate implementation of legislation for cooperatives, designing cooperative policies and strategies as well as legal procedures consistent with the international conventions on cooperatives and ensuring policy coherence between cooperative policy and the broader policy environment. The organizational capacity of the FCA has not much changed during the last two years. At regional level, the regional cooperative promotion institutions are organized as bureau or agency depending on the region. For instance, in Oromia, Amhara and Tigray regions, the Cooperative Promotion Agency is answerable to the Head of Bureau of Agriculture. In the SNNPR, the Cooperative and Marketing Bureau is answerable to the regional president. Within each region, the cooperative promotion structures are found at the zone and district levels. The district offices organize, register and support primary cooperatives by locality. The zone offices and regional bureaus and agencies monitor regulation, conduct capacity building, register unions and federations, and provide technical backstopping, among others. In Addis Ababa, parallel to the districts in the regions, each sub-city has a cooperative promotion team to organize and register primary cooperatives. As the regional cooperative structure often mirror the federal setting which has now put the FCA under Ministry of Trade, the regional states may continue to redefine the lines of authority of the cooperative promotion organs in their region.

Cooperative policies and strategies are designed by the FCA and approved or enacted by the appropriate legislative body. The policies defined how the cooperatives are organized and supported by cooperative promotion institutions. The cooperative organizations are closely linked with the supporting government cooperative institutions which provide them with technical support. The level of organizational hierarchy of coope-

ratives varies across regions. Figure 1 shows the common organizational hierarchy of cooperative organizations and the supporting government structures at different levels. Similar to the situation in 2008, there are generally four stages or organizational hierarchies of cooperatives, namely, first stage/primary cooperatives, second stage/cooperative unions, third stage/federation of cooperatives and fourth stage/confederation of cooperatives. In Ethiopia the tiers of cooperatives are currently three since confederation has not been yet established. These include primary cooperatives (where the number of members establishing a cooperative shall not be less than ten), secondary cooperatives or unions, and cooperative federations.

The cooperative federations are established at regional levels and form basis for confederation. When the confederation is established in the future, it is expected to play a role in advocacy, participate in policy dialogue and represent cooperatives in Ethiopia and in the International Cooperative Alliance. It will not be involved in usual cooperative business activities. The cooperative federations in Ethiopia have the role of facilitating large scale cooperative activities such as import and export activities in which large number of cooperative unions participate. In doing so, the federations increase economic efficiency, contribute to capacity building, and networking of cooperative unions.

The major change in cooperative structure since 2008 is the formation of regional Cooperative Federations. The government has realized the importance of establishing the Cooperative Federations and is providing technical and other supports through the regional cooperative promotion bureaus/agencies/offices.



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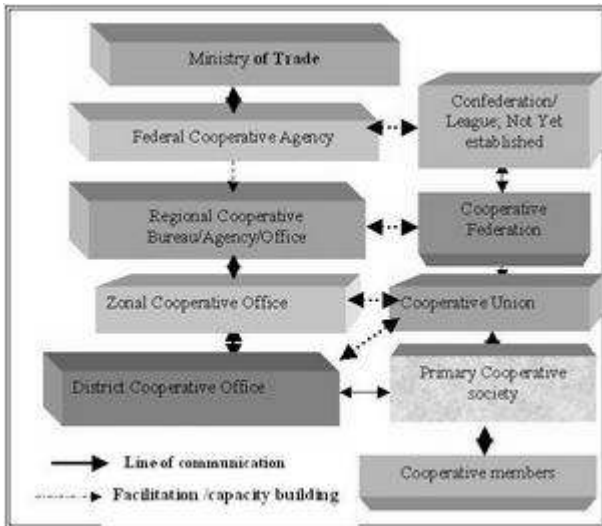
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¹ The Federal Cooperative Promotion Agency continued to accomplish the duties and responsibilities vested on the Cooperative Commission established in 2002 with proclamation No. 274/2002.

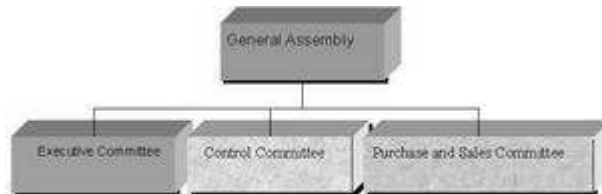
Figure 1: Organizational structure of cooperatives in Ethiopia (Since Sept. 2010)



2.2 Organizational structure of primary cooperatives, unions and federations

The internal organizational structure of cooperatives is almost uniform across regions and constitutes General Assembly, the Board / Executive Committee, Control Committee and Sub-committees (credit, sales and procurement, etc.) in order of power hierarchy. The general assembly of cooperatives serves as the upper decision making body and the board represented by elected members of the general assembly serves as an executive body.

Figure 2: Organizational Chart of Cooperative (Generic)

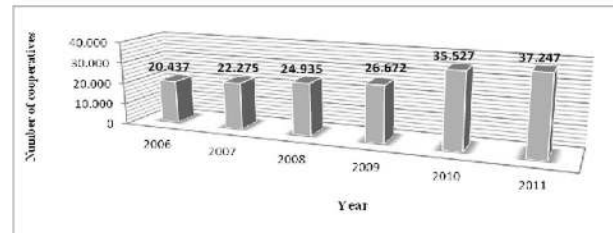


These cooperatives are governed in accordance with the bylaws that provide for the regular election of chairpersons and management committees, and voting based on the principle of one member one vote. Elections should be made regularly at a certain time interval. Board of directors usually consists of 5-7 members who are appointed by general assembly. Cooperative management rarely conduct meeting according to the regulations which demand regular meeting of at least once in a year.

The number of primary cooperatives as of May 2011 was 37,247 of which 10,406 were in Oromia, 9,431 in Addis Ababa and 6,390 in Amhara regions. Housing cooperatives (7,493) form the largest primary cooperative type of which 74% are located in Addis Ababa. The second largest type of primary cooperative type was saving and credit (7,233) and the third most populous was multipurpose cooperatives (7,195). There were about 20 types of primary cooperatives as of May, 2011. The categorization of cooperatives by type has some limitation where sometimes type definition is based on specific products the cooperative undertakes (e.g. coffee, fish, etc.) and sometimes on general activities the cooperatives undertake. For instance,

agricultural product marketing which is a broad category and can overlap with specific product type such as milk and milk products, coffee, fruits and vegetable production. Accordingly, it appears that the multipurpose cooperatives also engage in cereal production and marketing. The trend analysis of primary cooperatives shows an increasing trend over time. As it is shown in Figure 3 the number of the cooperatives has increased by 45% between 2006 and 2011. The increase is largely enhanced by the government plan to expand cooperatives to the extent that one primary cooperative is established in each kebele and one union per woreda as it was stipulated, for instance, in the plan of Oromia Cooperative Commission during PASDEP (2006-2010).

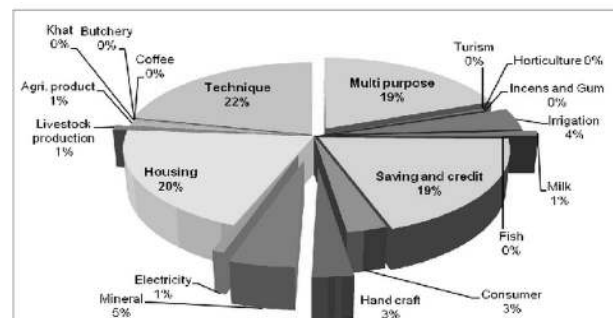
Figure 3. Trend of Primary Cooperatives (2006-2011)



Source: Compiled based on data obtained from FCA

Cooperatives engaged in different technical practices as well as material supply and service delivery constitute the largest proportion (22% of the total) followed by housing (20%) whereas SACCO and multipurpose cooperative occupy the third position with 19% each. The remaining balance of the cooperatives are working on livestock and livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, mining, forestry development, fishery, etc. Less than 1% (shown as 0% in Figure 4) implies less than 372 cooperatives and does not mean no cooperative of that type. The material supply and service delivery cooperatives include cooperatives organized to accomplish tasks such as electric supply and utilization, tailoring, veterinary services, blacksmith, butchery services and loading and unloading, construction materials production.

Figure 4: Proportion of primary cooperatives in Ethiopia (N=37,247) (May 11, 2011)



Source: Compiled based on data obtained from FCA

The increase in the number of cooperatives may continue in the future. If we assume that 10% of the urban dwellers and 75% of the rural households join the cooperative form of organization, there will be more than 3 million people to be organized (without assuming population growth). Along the increase in the number of cooperatives, the major task for the cooperative agencies would be capacitating the existing and newly formed cooperatives.

3. Role of the government in cooperative development

As discussed in the previous sections, the role of the government is promulgating policies and directives as well as proclamations regarding cooperative movement. These policies, directives and proclamations provide the ground rules for formation and dissolution of cooperatives, outlines their objectives and conditions of membership, details their governance and the special privileges and restrictions pertaining to cooperatives management. Moreover, they also clearly set out general provisions and registration of cooperatives, legal personality of registered cooperatives, rights and duties of members, governance of cooperatives, special privileges of primary cooperative, assets and funds of primary cooperatives, audit and inspection, dissolution and management of cooperatives and other miscellaneous provisions.

Government also establishes cooperative promotion institutions from federal down to the region, zone and district levels. It has been playing the major role of building the institutional capacity of the cooperative teaching (at different universities and colleges) and cooperative promotion offices. Currently, the government is investing huge amount of money in higher education programs and TVET colleges which include cooperative training. Graduates of cooperative departments are assigned to work in cooperative promotion offices having positive impact on the cooperative performance. Moreover, the government institutions create links with international organizations to support cooperative development. A typical example come from the Rural Finance Intermediation Program (RUFIP), which was designed by the Federal Cooperative Agency and funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the African Development Bank, to build the capacity of cooperatives involved in rural financial services. The first phase of the program was implemented for seven years and the second phase approved for the five years.

4. Contribution of cooperatives to social and economic development

In Ethiopia, cooperatives as stipulated in FDRE 2002:59 are expected to render many services including (i) providing inputs and agricultural marketing (ii) expanding financial services in rural areas; (iii) purchase of agricultural machinery, equipment and implements, and lease them to farmers, (iv) setting up of small agro-processing industries where processed agricultural products with greater value added could be produced and (v) establishing various social institutions to provide different kinds of social services.

As it is observed, cooperatives are trying to provide a wide range of services to their members and sometimes to even non-members. They provide input supply services, output and input marketing, machinery renting, employment and social services. Economic services such as input and output marketing are the major activities of most of the cooperatives organized for the purpose. Cooperatives play great role in creating employment opportunity for the people. Cooperative sector generated 207,587 employment of which about 18% was by cooperative unions and 82% by primary cooperatives. And the total value of the employment is estimated at ETB 970 million (USD 72 million) in 2009/10 fiscal year (Emana, 2010). Cooperatives contribute to poverty reduction in different ways. Wage and salary income gives livelihood opportunities for the employees. The cooperatives and unions also distribute inputs to the

members. Cooperatives marketed 357,000 metric tons of fertilizer, or 67% of all fertilizer imports and 85% of domestic fertilizer distribution (Meherka, 2008). In addition to fertilizer, cooperatives involve in distribution of improved seed, farm implement (water pump, BBM), pesticide and herbicide, modern beehive and other agricultural inputs. Some of the inputs provided through cooperatives such as fertilizer and improved seeds are channeled through government structure.

Moreover, cooperatives in Ethiopia give a wide range of an implicit economic and social protection to their members (FCA 2008) by providing protective and empowering measures. They collect products from their members at fair prices during harvest time, when prices usually fall drastically. Produce is re-sold when prices recover. This reduces the vulnerability of the producers to exploitation from traders and thus provides an implicit insurance for the cooperative members, which means that their produces will not fall below an unacceptable limit. The services rendered to the cooperative members include input supply, marketing, processing and exporting of agricultural commodities, which signifies the role of cooperatives in foreign currency earnings. The other protection that cooperatives offer to their members includes lending money services when their members face shortage of cash.

These cooperatives also perform social development related activities that include consumption service, literacy training, HIV prevention and public infrastructure. The economic benefits of cooperatives also contribute to social benefit as the income earned from cooperatives is invested in children's education and cover health expenses. As an institution, cooperatives also create a joint voicing mechanism for the rural and scattered people.

Service provision is one of the objectives of cooperatives. Cooperative unions spend about 5% of their profit as investment in social services. This has long term economic benefits to the cooperatives by increasing its social capital. This is the kind of services few unions/cooperatives are currently undertaking to contribute to the social well-being of their community and their employees. Social services are done as a sideline and rarely done at peak business operation period. As cooperatives are transforming into agro-industry, such services like awareness raising on HIV helps sustainability of the cooperatives. Cooperatives also facilitate access to these services delivered through specialized agencies rather than doing the services themselves. The key element here is business planning capacity of the cooperative management including operational matters rather than provision of the social service per se.

5. Challenges and prospects for the future of cooperatives

5.1 Challenges for future cooperative development in Ethiopia

The cooperatives in Ethiopia have some challenges for future development. These include:

- Weak leadership and management capacity as well as poor entrepreneurship skill of cooperative members;
- Low participation of members in strategic decisions of the cooperatives;
- Lack of transparency of cooperative management body to members;

- Limited capacity to use modern technology that increase efficiencies such as information technology by cooperative management;
- Lack of access to use of credit facilities from the commercial financial system;
- Lack of regular audit, inspection and monitoring services;
- Unstable institutional setting of the cooperative promotion agencies;
- Limited linkage and sense of ownership of members at different levels (members, primary cooperatives and unions);
- Interference in important decisions of the cooperatives (recruitment, employment, input and output price fixing, leadership election, credit provision and loan repayment);
- Support of development partners may decline due to global financial crisis; and
- Tendency of inducing nomination of model farmers/cooperatives to lead cooperatives which violates one of the principle of cooperatives.

5.2 Prospects for future cooperative development in Ethiopia

- The current Growth and Transformation Plan gives emphasis for cooperatives as key actors for successful implementation of the plan;
- The current high demand for agricultural products specially grain can give cooperatives great opportunities to increase their capital;
- Construction of roads can give cooperatives easy access to market;
- Expansion of Cell Phone Network in the country can reduce information asymmetry between individual traders and cooperatives;
- Global networking increases access to industry and technology;
- Availability of development partners support;
- Support or resources put aside for coops from NGOs, govt., etc.

Developmental State and Repression

Ato Ye-Aemero Netsanet

1. Political Culture for more than two Decades

Staying in government for more than two decades is not something particularly difficult or would even require a lot of sophistication. The current government has been in power for 23 years. The EPRDF coalition government had a major setback in the elections of 2005, which went to a large extent to the opposition, but through the use of force and undemocratic measures, the status quo remained in power. In 2010, however the elections led to a win by 99,6% for the ruling party, with one opposition member being elected. This must be very familiar for those of us, who have grown and lived in East Germany during the communist regime. Ever since then the political space has been systematically narrowed with a series of laws e.g. Charities and Societies, press, anti-

6. Conclusions

Cooperatives play a significant role for economic and social development of smallholder farmers in Ethiopia by creating job opportunities, providing inputs and output marketing services, providing social protection and networking services to their members. The prevailing challenges and weakness of the sector is hindering the use of the existing potential to the expected level. Some critical limitations include lack of access to financial resources, lack of good management and leadership skill and poor governance. Thus, it is important to think of capacity building and creating access to financial resources for cooperatives to bring social and economic benefits to cooperative members.

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terrorism and in autumn 2012 even a directive to regulate the use of Skype, was put in place. Initially the target was to silence all skype users, finally as the protest was growing and the country became the only in the world with such an intrusive directive, the government swiftly shifted and claimed that only "Call Centres" were targeted which operated on a commercial basis. As a pattern one can detect this behaviour of the government – a law or directives is floated to the public, the initial reaction is captured and analyzed and then the actual final version of the directives is finalized taking into consideration the first public reaction. Consequently in the "skype" case individuals could finally use skype and the international damage was actually already caused, through the behaviour of the regime, but they managed to take the edge off the international out row.

The fundamental vision of the ruling party is indeed to develop Ethiopia and reduce poverty, but along the philosophy of a developmental state, which is a binding framework and is a doctrine, which can't be openly debated. It is also the sincere belief of the ruling class,

that they only can bring about change in this country and reduce poverty. The main "class" backbones are the farmers and peasants, which build the largest segment of society in sheer numbers and where Ethiopia's economy is based on. The greatest undemocratic structure this government has set-up is the fact that the ruling party, the state bureaucracy, the Army build one block managed and directed by the prime minister (PM) assisted by hand picked ministers, directors of parastatal entities, the security sector and the government controlled print and electronic media.

The late PM Meles Zenawi has pursued the concept of developmental state in academic and practical terms and economists such as Joseph Stiglitz and Jeffrey Sachs were visitors that were seen in Addis Ababa. Stiglitz would come at least twice a year and advice the PM on economic matters. The baseline of the developmental state is the assumption that Ethiopia can learn from the early developments of South Korea (the regime of General Park Chung-hee of the 1961-1979), Taiwan, Malaysia and of course China to take its own course. This is done by focusing on an agriculture led development, followed by an agro-industry, which sets the stage for manufacturing and massive state investment in all spheres of infrastructure. Staying in power and giving any reasonable political space to the opposition, civil society/NGOs, faith-based institutions, the people at large is a political dogma that is quite rational, given the fact that maintaining power is the ultimo ratio of this regime. In private and even public space, government officials have said more than once, that they have come from the guerrilla fields and fought their way up to government and that this will not be taken away by a third party, just like that. For the last two decades the approach of the governing system is secretive, crucial decisions are made by the central committee of the TPLF, which is then adopted by the EPRDF and above all informal channels are used to shape decisions and give orders to the bureaucracy and party card carrying members and officials. As such, little evidence or documented procedural materials are available to follow through a decision in order to find out who actually made it. The party is in power, but remains under the guerrilla mentality, though the old guard is dying out or getting increasingly unwell. Politically speaking the grip of the party on the state has led to the government being an implementation arm of the party. In this sense the regime has understood to control the country at large and monopolize the public space, among others using mass based organizations (women, youth), while this method is no different from the Military Regime of Mengistu H/Mariam) which are tools of influencing the poverty stricken people of this ancient country. People that the Central Committee of the party has endorsed occupy all crucial political posts in the army, the intelligence, the state apparatus, and governing regions/provinces. The ethnic based distribution of political and military posts is simply a side dish with no real political implications, since in all public institutions a Tigrian has ultimately the say. Taking the people seriously doesn't even occur to the leadership, the party cadres and the rank and files in most state/party organs. In terms of political freedom and daily life without fear, those horrible days of the military regime (Dergue) have disappeared and relative peace exists in rural and urban areas. Selective and targeted oppression of political opponents that may be dangerous is the trademark of this regime, while at the same time it uses non-lethal methods of exclusion, isolation and pulling the carpet under the foot of any serious political group, without refraining from

elimination. In the Somalia region, in parts of Oromia and Amhara and other pockets the cleansing of mainly Amhara people goes on unabated. Yes the arbitrary killings of the Mengistu regime doesn't exist, but the precise elimination and deprivation of individuals and collectives are the order of the day. At least since a decade all international human rights organizations have reported on massive human rights violations in this country. Then, how did the regime survive all these reports and critics? The late PM has managed to present himself and the government as the only alternative to run the country, since the opposition is unable to organize itself and make a decisive step in taking over power. Needless to say that the opposition has been inflicted heavy blows by the regime and has also been unable to form unity and have a viable political strategy for Ethiopia. The most saddening point in this scenario is the abject poverty of the people than can be bought by the distribution of goodies of the regime. The state remains the number one employer, the national pension fund is governmental, the safety net program is foreign financed, government managed, these and other mechanisms have led to a submissive state of mind of the people, due to massive poverty and non-existence of an alternative way to secure their daily bread. The state has positioned itself in such a way that it provides credits and development concepts to uproot poverty for the masses. This state driven development push is the only real growth midpoint that allows the government to shape, manage and give the direction, which also means people have to turn to the government to get "developed".

2. Development or Growth – that's the question

The economic growth of Ethiopia is closely intertwined with the political economy of the country and the developmental state philosophy of the ruling party. The state is and remains the primary actor, mover and shaker of the economy and accumulates capital by venturing in various businesses and reaches out by controlling parastatal enterprises. Above all the state continues to own and control enterprises confiscated earlier by the Derg-military regime in its own hands. This allows the state not only to control produce and people of these enterprises, but gives the opportunity to use the enterprises to artificially create jobs and hence satisfy its clientele. The countries government and the state own large farms, manage all the utility companies, and run large enterprises, which supply pharmaceuticals, basic industry products, meat and beverage. Though, since a couple of years the privatization agency is increasingly selling off state owned conglomerates to private national and international investors, more often than not, though the bid is public, through "divine" intervention the bid goes to Sheik Al-Amoudi a Saudi-Ethiopian millionaire and admirer of the ruling political party¹. The economic growth rate of two digits over the last 8 years or so is a figure that has never been corroborated by a third party. The World Bank and IMF base their own figures on what they get from the Ethiopian side and do not have their own data set. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) provides all the data and this is taken over by the international financial institutions for their annual reports on the state of the Ethiopian

¹ This fact is known to the foreign embassies and even the local press entertains in a modest way this topic. Recently, the editor of one of the semi-independent dailies (Ethiopian Reporter) was attacked and severely beaten by thugs of Al-Amoudi, so the credible rumour in town, because he exposed various issues surrounding his companies.

economy. Besides, when you consider the high inflation rate, which reached 64% in mid 2008 and, while the general prices for commodities have doubled in 2011/12 compared to the base year value of 2006. Hence, if you subtract inflation and high price rise, then the economic growth is by far much less than the two digit figures the government provides. One of the striking issues in the economy of Ethiopia is that we observe growth without employment². Many of the infrastructure projects are mechanized, the Chinese who practically are the main contractors of most of the infrastructure projects, come with their own workforce and hire nationals for mediocre jobs. All in all, especially the youth remain un- and underemployed, which will have repercussions on the nation sooner than later.

Currently, the country has at least 10 large power plant projects underway, large light-train infrastructure, major road projects, huge state investments in sugar-cane farming and industry and many more. The Ethiopian Economic Association and others have clearly shown in studies that these mega infrastructure projects, entirely financed by massive state intervention, actually accelerates and is a driving factor for high inflation and ever escalating price rise for food and non-food items. The inflation has been on average at around 21 % over the last 8 years with the peak of 68% in mid 2008 and reduced modestly over this time, but still remains unbearable for many ordinary men and women, with currently under 10%.

A major issue is land grabbing, though here its called agricultural investment. Though the government, which considers itself to be "national democratic" claims that none of the usual criteria for land grabbing matches the Ethiopian context, the controversy continues to be unabated on the agenda inside and outside Ethiopia. Though only some 3% of the arable land is affected by handing out large chunks³ to investors the whole approach is similar to what happened in Latin America in the 50s-80s'. Land is taken directly or indirectly from people who have settled or are transhumance and this by itself is illegal. The Federal Government of Ethiopia manages the land issue and the Regional governments have little say, besides implementing directives, which come from Addis Ababa. Yes, marginal land, with no or few inhabitants has also been allocated, but this is not the only part of the story. Besides, none of the investors are interested to produce staple crops for the domestic market, instead they focus entirely on export crops and have publicly expressed that they want to ship back their harvest to India, Saudi Arabia and/or the sub-regional markets. Land eviction has been reported in several instances, though an independent verification was not always possible. The local inhabitants have been degraded to farm workers and there is growing anger building up. There was little or no consultation process, though the government has organized various such meetings, often stage-managed by local political cadres. Today the price of major staple crops, such as Teff, has quadrupled in the last 6 - 7 years. Price hikes are widespread and rampant and affect especially the low income urban population but also the rural people who can't afford to buy processed goods such as sugar or even afford text books for their children.

The Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) could ultimately become the graveyard of Ethiopia, because of its sheer dimension and the technical complexity and

financial burden associated with it. It requires at least 80 Bill. Birr and at least half of this are required in foreign currency. Apart from being a project that strongly contributes to inflation, it has become a national prestige project, with which the regime also has won the hearts of people in and outside Ethiopia, who usually are critical of the government. It is seen as a significant step to finally use the water resource of the Nile for Ethiopia instead of profiting Sudan and Egypt alone, a dream of all Ethiopian kings since time immortal. The ultimate economic value and the direct and indirect profit from this project are for all three countries, based on the current technical outline, which allows all parties to profit from this dam in an equitable manner. So far the greatest profit through huge amounts of water and soil went to Egypt.

3. The NGO scene- reduced to Charities

The NGO law⁴ is the single most important law in Ethiopia to control the NGO sector and to allocate to them a role defined by the government, namely as "gap-fillers". The ideological background for this law lies in the historical experience the ruling party had, as it was a guerrilla organization. In those days the movement was supported in various ways by donor agencies incl. faith based ones. The party has learned that international aid agencies are capable of influencing their national governments foreign policy, that they have access to medias and can and do influence public opinion. Now, that the movement is in government it seeks to neutralize the NGO scene. Indeed the country didn't have any systematic legislation, except registration with the ministry of justice. Though, in the 90s a joint working group between the government and the NGO representatives existed to prepare such legislation, the government dragged its feet for years and finally in the usual secretive manner came up with this intrusive law. The law is hindering the work of faith-based organizations and NGOs alike. However, many organizations have been able to adapt to the new situation and carry on their work in a different manner. They have developed coping mechanisms and by labelling differently their work continue to even work on rights based approach, which is forbidden by law. Yet, other organizations are in difficulties, especially those with limited resources, low level of adaptation capacity. Others have preferred not to re-register, but to continue their work in an informal way. The massive collapse and disappearance of NGOs from the scene, expected by some sides has not taken place. The 30:70% regulation⁵ will take its toll over the coming years, because it's difficult to adhere to it, given the nature and cycle of project/program work.⁶ Indeed, if the NGO sector does not continue its own efforts to have transparent organizations that adhere to the Code of Conduct and do not abide by ethical standards, the government will have more reason to intervene. The same applies for faith-based organizations for which another legislation is under preparation. The government will not tolerate the mixture of development work and

⁴ Charities and Societies Proclamation, Feb. 2009

⁵ 30% of the budget for administrative expenses and 70% directly to the project/program beneficiaries. But what the 30% entails is up to the government. A water engineer working in a rural water supply project is considered as administrative expenses.

⁶ When a project starts the initial expenses for hardware, supplies, equipments etc. is comparatively high in the first year and diminishes over the following life cycle. The law simply does not cater for the project life-cycle realities.

² African Development Bank 2011

³ The Indian KARATURI company has been allotted 100,000ha

religious activities by one and the same organization. Both entities have to be organizationally and from their governance structure completely separated, which most faith-based institutions find difficult to implement, the way the government wants it.

The real issue is how far the concerned organizations are willing to go to satisfy the government through coping mechanisms, adaptation and the like. If they take it too far they will sell their souls. That will be the end of Civil Society in Ethiopia. This is precisely what the government intends to achieve over the years, to then have a few large organizations, affiliated to the ruling party, government institutions, mass-based organizations etc., which can be manoeuvred at will by state authorities.

4. Human Rights and democracy as work in progress

All major Rights institutions for the past so many years have criticized the human rights record of the government. This is nothing new for any observer of the HOA region. The violations range from:

- o The justice system being under the control of the party
- o Forced settlement
- o Eviction from their land for private investors
- o The synchronization of ruling party, bureaucracy, security forces and the justice system
- o Obstruction, and arbitrary manipulation of judicial process
- o Issuing laws/directives that are implemented in retrospect
- o Presenting of manipulated evidence and/or fabricated accusations
- o Harsh conditions in prisons and beating of political prisoners through prison gangs
- o Confiscation of assets of imprisoned people and/or companies
- o Ethnic based spatial arrangements and ethnic based summary imprisonments

and the list could go on. In terms of ethnic based HR violations Oromo's, Amhara and Somalis are suffering most, and any ethnic group that is perceived as being a threat in any particular way will be subjected to threats, violent gang-style attacks, arbitrary beatings, arrests without trials, hindrance of legal representation etc.

The worst part is that today, no person can be sure to have a fair trial and seek justice within the judicial system of the country. The whole state institutions have been politicised and under the influence of the regime. And yet they are still as a regime the darling of many, if not most donors, and continue to enjoy international acceptance as well as within the AU and the greater Horn of Africa Region. The ex-PM has always said to tell the western governments what they want to hear, to show some tangible success in terms of fulfilling some of the MDG. As long as the donors/governments get some value for money they will not press by any means for respect of HR by the government. This is how the higher political cadres were instructed by the late PM and it still seems to work. The strategic position of Ethiopia in the fight against Al-Qaeda completes this picture. No government/donor is willing to confront this government on the issue of HR. And that is too well known by the government. The population is disappointed by the behaviour of western ambassadors, large bi-lateral donors, who talk about respect of Human Rights, but ultimately

drop it from their agenda when they reach Addis Ababa. The government has often argued by saying that democracy is a work in progress and that all previous regimes were dictatorial and one should not expect a quick shift to democracy, due to the historical legacy of Ethiopia. This argument can be extended endlessly and is a multi-purpose interpretation that camouflages the reality on the ground, as accessible reports by all Human Rights organizations reveal.

5. Ethiopia: Sub-Regional power

The country has certain stability, though often on the surface and is stable in comparison to most of its neighbours. Criminal rates seem to be low, though there are now signs of raising street crimes in urban areas. Militarily Ethiopia has strong ties with the U.S., Germany⁷, and Ukraine and in recent times with China. Its military is engaged in several UN Peace Missions, the latest being in South Sudan, where it is the only force accepted by both parties. Its air force is still quite formidable and its ground forces have combat experience and are considered, not only by the U.S. administration as a stabilizing factor. In Somalia the intervention of Ethiopia and AU forces has driven out from most part of the country Al-Shabab, but this has not produced (permanent) peace.⁸ In Kenya and South Sudan Ethiopian troops and operatives have repeatedly attacked individual Ethiopians who have fled to these countries. With Eritrea the "border dispute" has been formally closed by the Algiers agreement and the international border commission to solve the border dispute, however Ethiopia does not recognize the verdict of the border commission, and wants to "re-negotiate" directly with Eritrea, which obviously doesn't accept this. The suffering is for the people of the region, who fought a war with at least 70,000 deaths from both sides, with no winner and no settlement of the dispute. This in itself is a disastrous foreign-policy record and doesn't qualify the regime to be called a stabilizing factor. However, it continues to have an influential stand in the region. Eritrea has become a pariah state and is under UN sanctions. Sudan and South-Sudan are for years to come busy with each other. Somalia depends on Ethiopia for basic supplies incl. the Chat. Djibouti also depends on Ethiopia, which's the number one user of the port, which brings Mill. of \$ per annum into the coffers of the State of Djibouti, through port fees. By its sheer size and market and investment potential, backed by Chinese capital, workforce and technology it has a dominating effect on the rest of the region. Ever since the great renaissance dam is being constructed the government has also managed to rally friends and foes around this mega-project and weakened some of the opposition from the Diaspora. The latter is sending Mill of US\$ in foreign currency as remittance, which is welcome by the government due to its low foreign-exchange reserves.

Lots of money is spent for military, Para-military and security forces inside and beyond the borders of Ethiopia, often unaccounted for, which has led the

⁷ Training of Ethiopian officers for the Sudan UN peacekeeping mission was done by Germany. The training, though officially for peace keeping can and may have been used in other parts of Ethiopia e.g. Somalia.

⁸ On Sunday the 20th Oct. a building partially collapsed, while alleged Al-Shabab terrorists were preparing their deadly device, before they could take it to the planned destination, namely the National football stadium in Addis Ababa.

Auditor General of Ethiopia to conclude that around 6 Bill. Birr. has not at all or not properly been accounted for, of which half of it is by the armed forces.

The growing confrontation and discontent from Sudan and Egypt regarding GERD is far from over. The latest move by the Ethiopian government is to become inclusive and actually allow the two countries to be "shareholders" in this project and hence be part and parcel of the whole undertaking. Though the details are not known

Die Borana Nomaden-Kultur im Zeichen des Klimawandels

Klaus Dieter Peters, Dipl.-Ing. agr., Deutsche Welthungerhilfe

Klaus Dieter Peters war 2011 / 2012 für 6 Monate im Auftrag der Deutschen Welthungerhilfe in Borana, um bei der Beschaffung von Ziegen und Kamelen für die Nomaden, die viele Tiere bei der letzten Dürre verloren hatten, zu helfen und um eine Situationsanalyse mit Lösungsvorschlägen auszuarbeiten. Wir veröffentlichen seinen Beitrag in zwei Teilen. Teil 1 erschien im November 2013 (<http://www.deutsch-aethiopischer-verein.de/daev-infoblaetter.html>).

Teil 2

Vom Klimawandel bedingte Dürreperioden

Seit Beginn der siebziger Jahre hat der weltweite Klimawandel zu einer rapiden Zunahme von extremen Trockenperioden mit verheerenden Folgen im Boranaland geführt. Dazu erhöht eine zunehmende Unregelmäßigkeit der Niederschläge das Risiko für den Anbau von landwirtschaftlichen Kulturen. Heftige Regenfälle verschließen in der Regenzeit die Poren der ausgetrockneten Minutenböden und Fluten von Oberflächenwasser verursachen besonders im Buschland katastrophale Erosionsschäden.

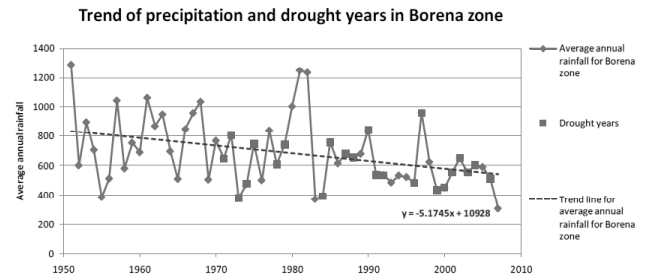
Extreme Dürreperioden gab es schon in der Vergangenheit. Sie traten aber zuvor nur etwa alle 20 Jahre auf. Die geringe Bevölkerungsdichte jener Zeit und die durch keine negativen externen Einflüsse begrenzten großen Baumsavannen boten den Nomaden damals während langer Dürreperioden immer ausreichende Ausweichmöglichkeiten.

Nach übereinstimmender Aussage der Borana-Ältesten sind die immer schneller wiederkehrenden extremen Trockenperioden unserer Zeit für sie ein sehr ernstes ihre Existenz bedrohendes Problem. Ein Problem für welches sie noch keine Lösung gefunden haben und welches der Mehrheit von ihnen schon ein Leben unter der Armutsgrenze beschert hat.

Extreme Trockenperioden in der Borana Zone

- 1972 - 1974
- 1984 - 1985
- 1999 - 2000
- 2002 - 2003
- 2006 - 2007
- 2010 - 2011

and also not clear how the two neighbouring countries will react, the move is at first-sight smart. Much of the foreign-politics in the HOA region for the coming years will be dominated by the GERD and will over shadow other socio-political topics.



Source: National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia 2008; Google News Archive on Drought

Grasland versus Buschland

Das geschlossene Grasland der Baumsavanne ist sehr viel besser gegen Erosion geschützt als die ungeschützten Buschlandböden mit wenig Unterbewuchs. Die dichte Bewurzelung von Grasland fixiert zudem erheblich mehr CO₂ und ist kohlenstoff- und humusreicher als Buschland. Unglücklicherweise hat das durch das Dergue-Regime erlassene Verbot des kontrollierten Weidefeuers, wie bereits berichtet, zu einer unkontrollierten Ausbreitung von Dornbüschen und Bäumen in den Savannen des Borangebietes geführt. Klimawandel bedingte zunehmende extrem lange Trockenzeiten haben diesen Negativ-Trend ganz erheblich verstärkt und dazu geführt, dass heute etwa 60% des Borana Landes von Buschland bedeckt sind. Diese Invasion von unerwünschten Dorngehölzen, in erster Linie *Commiphora africana* Büsche und *Acacia* sp. Baumarten aber auch Unkräutern wie *Prosopis juliflora*, haben den Lebensraum der Nomaden gefährlich eingeeengt und zu einer ständigen Überweidung des Landes geführt. Eine Verkettung von Überweidung und Verbuschung mit nachfolgenden Erosionsschäden endet meist zuletzt in einer katastrophalen Degradierung des Lebensraumes für Mensch und Vieh.

Degradiertes Land

Anliegendes Bild zeigt tiefe Erosionsgräben an leichten Hanglagen und durch Regenfluten zerstörte rote Erde unter Buschland.

Armut im Boranaland

Rund 30% der Borana Agro Nomaden sind mit einem Viehbesitz von weniger als 20 Rindern armutsgefährdet, 20% von ihnen leben unter der Armutsgrenze und nennen weniger als 10 Rinder ihr Eigentum. Mehr als 10% der Borana gehören zu den sogenannten Drop Outs, dies sind Menschen welche als Agro Nomaden nicht mehr existieren können und gezwungen sind in die



Stadt abzuwandern. Bei einer Herdengröße von weniger als 20 Rindern läuft eine Nomadenfamilie Gefahr, dass sich ihre Herde durch Ausfälle wie Krankheiten und Notverkäufen nicht mehr durch Nachwuchs regenerieren kann, das heißt, die Herde schrumpft weiter und weiter und endet bei einem Bestand von weniger als 10 Tieren. Für ihren Besitzer ist dies ein Abstieg in Armut und Not. Besonders junge Familien, welche noch keine Herden von ausreichender Größe besitzen oder aufbauen konnten, sind von akuter Armut bedroht.

Das traditionelle Sicherheitssystem „Bussaa Gonofa“ der Borana Nomaden, welches auf einem Solidaritätsprinzip beruht, wurde durch die immer schneller aufeinander folgenden Klimakatastrophen mit dem Verlust von vielen hunderttausend Tieren und schrumpfenden Weidegründen ausgehöhlt. Es gibt heute nur noch wenige wohlhabende Nomaden, welche einer steigenden Anzahl von bedürftigen Clanmitgliedern helfen können. Viele Nomaden leben bereits mehr als fünf Monate im Jahr in Ernährungsunsicherheit. Neben den Einkommen aus Viehhaltung und etwas Landwirtschaft gibt es kaum Einkommens schaffende Möglichkeiten für sie. Eine Reduzierung der Mahlzeiten, Nachbarschaftshilfe, Produktion von Holzkohle, Sammeln von Gum arabica etc., Kleinhandel oder seltene Gelegenheitsarbeiten in einer der kleinen Städte sind für diese Menschen die wenigen und begrenzten Möglichkeiten ihren Lebensunterhalt in Notzeiten zu sichern.

Probleme und Problemlösungen

Situationsanalyse

Die Trinkwasserversorgung für Mensch und Vieh war in der Vergangenheit das Hauptproblem der Borana Nomaden. Ein ungeplanter Ausbau von Oberflächen- und Grundwasseranlagen sowie der Klimawandel haben in den letzten Jahrzehnten dazu geführt, dass heute nicht mehr die Versorgung mit Trinkwasser sondern die Höhe

der Niederschläge für Acker und Weide sowie die Größe der Fläche des verfügbaren Weidelandes limitierende Faktoren für die Herden und eine gesicherte Existenz der Borana Agro Nomaden sind.

Wie bereits beschrieben, sind die durch den Klimawandel bedingten immer häufiger auftretenden extrem langen Trockenzeiten die Ursache einer permanenten Überweidung, welche zu einer Ausbreitung der Buschlandschaft und damit zu einer starken Reduzierung der Weiden in der Baumsavanne geführt hat. Das während des Dergue-Regimes erlassene Verbot des Feuers zur kontrollierten Buschbekämpfung auf den Weideflächen hat diese negative Entwicklung eingeleitet, so dass heute ca. 60% des Boranalandes von Dornbusch bedeckt ist. Während der letzten Trockenperioden verendeten aus diesem Grunde weit über eine Millionen Tiere der Borana.

Das deprimierende Resultat dieser Entwicklung ist eine Verarmung der Borana Agro Nomaden beruhend auf einer zunehmenden um sich greifenden Zerstörung ihres Lebensraumes durch Erosion, Landvernichtung und Verbuschung. Im Konkurrenzkampf um die immer knapper werdenden Ressourcen Weide und Wasser kommt es zunehmend zu kriegerischen Auseinandersetzungen zwischen den Stämmen, welche die Stabilität der Region gefährden, dies ganz besonders dann, wenn diese Konflikte von verantwortungslosen Leuten dazu noch politisch instrumentalisiert werden.

Ein Wechsel von der Nomadenwirtschaft zum Regenfeldbau ist bei den gegebenen Niederschlagsmengen von vorne rein zum Scheitern verurteilt. Landwirtschaft als Lebensgrundlage im regenarmen Borana-Gebiet ist nur bei gesicherter Bewässerung der Landwirtschaftskulturen möglich. Die äthiopische Regierung hat deshalb mit der Installierung von 6 starken Generatoren für Grundwasserförderung am Fuße der Berge im Distrikt Dilo begonnen, ergänzt durch dem Bau von überdimensionierten Wasservorratsbehältern sowie der unterirdischen Verlegung von insgesamt 2000 Kilometern Irrigationsrohren in 5 Distrikten der Borana-Zone. Dieses von der Weltbank finanzierte Unternehmen wurde bereits in drei Distrikten fertig gestellt. Eine Inbetriebnahme des Projektes scheiterte aber bisher, da die explodierenden Preise für Dieselmotoren den Betrieb der Anlage unwirtschaftlich machen. Die als Alternative begonnene elektrische Straße, welche preiswerte Hydroenergie aus dem Hochland liefern soll, wird frühestens in einem Jahr fertig gestellt werden. Nach jüngsten Berechnungen ist es aber nicht sicher ob, wie geplant, ausreichende Grundwasservorräte für eine weitflächige Bewässerung vorhanden sind. Das Projekt soll deshalb zunächst nur die Trinkwasserversorgung von Mensch und Vieh sichern und würde in diesem Falle das Ungleichgewicht von Wasser zu Weide weiter negativ beeinflussen.

Problemlösung für normale Klimajahre

Die Sicherung der Futtergrundlage für die Herden besitzt erste Priorität für die Borana Nomaden und das bedeutet weitflächige Rehabilitierung des ausufernden Buschlandes. Das staatliche „Dry Land Pastoralist and Agricultural Research Center“ in der Borana Zone (Yabello) hat aus diesem Grund bereits Buschland-Rehabilitierungsmaßnahmen in sein Arbeitsprogramm aufgenommen. Buschland Rodung ist ebenfalls Bestandteil eines „Cash for Work“ Programmes verschiedener NROs und hat gezeigt, dass die meisten wertvollen Weidegräser der Savanne (z.B. *Chrysopogon aucheri*, *Bracharia lacananta*, *Setaria verticillata*, *Penisetum*

stramineum, *Echinchola hapticloda* etc.) sofort nach der Buschrodung wieder keimen und eine ausgezeichnete Grasnarbe für neue Weiden bilden. Um ein erneutes Austreiben des Busches zu verhindern, sollten die Gehölze einen Meter über dem Grund gekappt und ihre Rinde durch einen Ringsum-Schnitt unterbrochen werden. Nützliche Bäume und Büsche wie z. B. die Schirmakazie (*Acacia tortilis*) als Schattenbaum oder *Heteropogon contortus* als Futterbusch dürfen dabei nicht der Buschrodung zum Opfer fallen sondern müssen Teil der neu erstehenden Baumsavanne werden. Ein Abbrennen des Busches ist unter allen Umständen zu vermeiden. Geeignete Hölzer sollten zur Holzkohलगewinnung oder anderen Zwecken gebraucht werden. Die Wiedereinführung einer Ruhezeit und des kontrollierten Feuers für das Weideland in einem dreibis vier Jahresrhythmus gehören ebenso zu den notwendigen obligatorischen Rehabilitierungs-Maßnahmen deren Einhaltung und Überwachung die Aufgabe des traditionellen Gada-Managements sein muss. Weite Flächen von Buschland des Boranalandes werden mit einem solchen Landrehabilitierungsprogramm wieder zu einem wertvollen potentiellen ökologischen Aktivposten und helfen ausreichende Weidefläche für die Nomadenherden in normalen Jahren zu sichern.

Problemlösung für durch Klimawandel bedingte Dürrejahre

Weide: Allerdings werden die Gräser auf den rehabilitierten Landflächen während der durch den Klimawandel bedingten extremen Trockenperioden wieder verdorren und es muss dann damit gerechnet werden, dass es erneut zu einer Überweidung und nachfolgender Verbuschung kommt. Um diesen Gefahren Rechnung zu tragen und ein Minimum an Futter für die Herden der Borana zu sichern, ist der (innovative) Anbau von diversen Futterbäumen erforderlich. Die meisten Baumarten überstehen sehr viel besser längere Trockenperioden als Gräser und Kräuter. Schon Plato erwähnte in seinem *Critias* an Timaeus den Anbau von Futterbäumen und heute hängt die Nutztierhaltung im trockenen Norden von Australien oder in Ländern südlich der Sahara weitgehend von den Blättermassen und Früchten der dort kultivierten Futterbäume ab. Geeignete Futterbäume für ein solches Silvopasture System in der Baumsavanne des Borana Landes wären zum Beispiel neben vielen anderen Baumarten: *Acacia Senegal*, *Vitex doniana*, *Leucena leucocephala* oder *Moringa olifera*. Um erhebliche Ausfälle bei den neu gepflanzten Bäumchen zu vermeiden, ist eine Bewässerung für die ersten 12 bis 20 Monaten nach dem Auspflanzen der Setzlinge erforderlich. Hierfür gibt es bereits kostengünstige einfache Tröpfchen-Bewässerungsmethoden. Das ILRI Institute in Addis Ababa verfügt über ein Saatgutvermehrungslabor und alle Geräte um reines Saatgut für großen Mengen von Baum-Setzlingen zu produzieren und diese auf Bestellung anzuziehen zu und günstigen Preisen zu liefern.

Der Aufbau von reinrassigen Borana Rinderherden über Besamungsstationen ist bei rehabilitierten Weiden empfehlenswert.

Sollte das bereits beschriebene geplante Irrigationsprojekt der Regierung Realität werden, kann ein intensiver Anbau von Futterpflanzen wie Luzerne helfen, Futterengpässe bei langen Trockenzeiten zu überwinden. Eine Rehabilitierung der weiten Buschflächen wird einige Jahre in Anspruch nehmen. Maßnahmen wie die Einführung einer Versicherung für Dürreperioden, so wie sie bereits in Kenia für die Nomaden besteht, oder

kommerzielle Massenschlachtung und andere Nothilfe-maßnahmen werden deshalb noch länger notwendig sein.

Acker: Zur Ernährungs-Sicherung der Bevölkerung während anhaltender Trockenzeiten ist die Einführung des Anbaus von Cassava (*Manihot utilisima*) unbedingt notwendig. Cassava ist eine leicht durch vegetative Vermehrung zu kultivierende, an Energie reiche, anspruchslose, trockentolerante Wurzelpflanze, deren Knollen bis zur Ernte fast zwei Jahren in der Erde verbleiben können. Cassava-Blätter enthalten Proteine und Vitamine und sind als schmackhafte Gemüse eine Bereicherung der einseitigen Nomadenkost. Das BLPDP-Projekt der GTZ hat den Anbau von Cassava in den neunziger Jahren erfolgreich in Negelle-Liiben eingeführt. Cassava Stecklinge dürften deshalb leicht von dort zu beschaffen sein. Auch gibt es ein Institut für Low-Land Cassava Cultivation an der Universität Awassa, welches sich mit der Prüfung angepasste Cassava Sorten befasst.

Die meisten Böden im Borana Land haben ein Wasserspeichungsvermögen von vier bis acht Wochen (abhängig von der Bodenart). Beim Anbau von Bohnen und Getreide sollten deshalb keine Langzeitsorten sondern möglichst nur 90 Tage Sorten angebaut werden. Auch ist der Anbau von Triticale zu empfehlen. Triticale wird bereits in anderen Regionen von Äthiopien angebaut und ist eine Kreuzung von Weizen und Roggen. Triticale ist resistent gegen viele Getreidekrankheiten, relativ trocken tolerant und kann ohne weiters zur Herstellung des National Gerichtes Injera verwendet werden.

Wasser: Die durch den Klimawandel bedingten langen Trockenzeiten mit ihren hohen Verdunstungswerten machen überall dort, wo eine Verlegung der Leitungen des Weltbank finanzierten Wasserprojektes nichtgeplant ist, den Bau von Evapotranspiration sicheren geschlossenen Wasserspeichern erforderlich. Außerordentlich gut bewährt haben sich Untergrund-Zisternen mit einer breiten oberirdischen Terrasse zum Auffangen des Oberflächenwassers oder auch geschlossene Behälter, welche von Regenrinnen der Wellblech- oder Aluminiumdächer gespeist werden. Eine maximale Entfernung zu den Viehtränken sollte mit 10 km für die Wara Herden und mit 30 km für die Fora Herden eingehalten werden.

Solange es keine umfassende Untersuchung betreffs der Grundwasservorräte gibt, sind Tiefbohrungen im Borana Gebiet nicht unproblematisch.

Sonstiges: Die veterinäre Versorgung der Borana-Herden ist heute durch gut ausgebildete freiwillige Para-Veterinäre in den Dörfern und einen staatlichen Veterinärndienst in den Sub-Distriktstädten kein ernstes Problem. Auch hat der äthiopische Staat mit dem Ausbau der Viehmärkte im Borana Land den Handel und Export von Vieh vereinfacht. Der Aufbau einer Wertschöpfungskette, welche Molkereien, Kühllhäuser und Lederherstellung umfasst, erscheint aber erst nach einer gelungenen Rehabilitierung gesicherter Futter-Ressourcen und einer sicheren Trinkwasserversorgung sinnvoll.

Wirkungen: Bei Gelingen der angedachten Problemlösungen sind als direkte Wirkung Armutsminderung, Katastrophenvorsorge, Konfliktprävention und eine positive ökologische Anpassung an den weltweiten Klimawandel zu erwarten.

Quellen: National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia 2008; Google News Archive on drought.

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Das "Addis Abeba Light Rail Transit Project" (AA LRT)

Bernhard Schulte-Kemna; DÄV Mitglied

In Addis Abeba mussten Verkehrsteilnehmer jeder Art in den letzten Monaten viel Geduld aufbringen, um die Beeinträchtigungen, die sich zwangsläufig durch den Bau der Stadtbahn ergeben, auszuhalten. Wer den ohnehin dichten Verkehr der Hauptstadt kennt, wird sich vorstellen können, was es bedeutet, wenn das bestehende Straßennetz an vielen Stellen aufgerissen und zeitweilig unterbrochen wird.

Seit Dezember 2011 wird gebaut und seit April 2013 werden Schienen verlegt. Und somit ist das Mammutprojekt, der Bau einer effizienten und umweltfreundlichen Stadtbahn für Addis Abeba, in der finalen Realisierungsphase. Und wenn man bedenkt, dass zu den Bau-Herausforderungen, wie den großen Höhenunterschieden in der Stadt, der dichten Bebauung, dem teilweise felsigen Untergrund und der gigantischen zu bewegendem Erdmasse noch das gewaltige bestehende Verkehrsaufkommen, das ja in der Bauzeit auch bewältigt werden muss, als erschwerende Umstände hinzukommt, wird die Dimension dieses ca. 34 km langen Hochbahn / Tiefbahn / Straßenbahn-Projektes erst richtig beeindruckend. Entsprechend der schwierigen Geländestruktur wird die Bahn mal oberhalb, mal unterhalb und mal auf Straßen-Niveau geführt. Es wird eine Nord-Süd-Achse über ca. 17 km von Menelik Square über Merkato, Lidetta, La Gare, am Meskel Square vorbei über Gotera und Nefas Silk nach Kalitti gebaut und eine ebenfalls ca. 17 km lange West-Ost-Achse von Tor Hiloch über Lidetta, Mexico Square, Meskel Square, Megenania, St. Michael Church nach Ajat. Insgesamt sind 39 Haltestationen vorgesehen.

Die Bahn wird elektrischen Antrieb haben und (durch ein separates Stromnetz?) von Stromausfällen verschont bleiben. Die Züge sollen bis zu 70 km/h schnell fahren können und einen 6 Minuten Takt einhalten. So würden Plangemäß pro Stunde ca. 15.000 Menschen in jede Richtung transportiert werden können. Insgesamt also ca. 60.000 Menschen pro Stunde.

Als Gesamtkosten wird von 475 Mio \$ ausgegangen, von denen 85% als Darlehen von der chinesischen EXIM Bank kommen und 15% aus äthiopischen Quellen. Mit der Durchführung wurde die „China Railway Group Ltd.“ beauftragt, die das Projekt in Abstimmung mit der „Ethiopian Railway Corporation“ (ERC) durchführt. Gemäß verschiedener Presse-Erklärungen soll das Projekt zu ca. 50 % fertig sein und wenn nicht außerplanmäßige Umstände eintreten, soll die Bahn rechtzeitig, oder sogar früher, in Betrieb gehen.

Die Vorteile, die diese Bahn mit sich bringt, liegen auf der Hand. Es werden die chronisch verstopften Straßen entlastet und damit auch die Luftqualität verbessert (weil

Stop-and-Go Verkehr mit vielen älteren LKW's, PKW's und Bussen im hügeligen Gelände zu riesigen schwarzen Abgas-Wolken führen, die mit zum zähen Addis-Abeba-Smog beitragen). Außerdem wird die Reisezeit durch die Stadt wesentlich verkürzt, was für Menschen auf dem Weg zur Arbeit und zurück sicher beträchtliche Erleichterung bringen wird. Über die Ticket-Preis-Gestaltung, die ja für die Bevölkerung auch ein wichtiges Kriterium ist, war bisher noch nichts zu ersehen.

Probleme hat es beim Bau natürlich auch gegeben, wie sicher bei jedem Projekt dieser Größenordnung. In 2012 gab es wohl ziemliche Behinderungen und Bau-Unterbrechung durch die starke Regenzeit. Und für viele Anwohner und Geschäftsleute, die ihre jeweiligen Lokalisationen entlang der Baustrecken haben, ist die Bauphase eine harte Zeit, in der die schlechte oder verhinderte Erreichbarkeit von Geschäft oder Wohnung zu beträchtlichen finanziellen Verlusten führen kann. Außerdem musste so manches Gebäude oder Gebäudeteil der Bahntrasse weichen.

Insgesamt dürfte der Bau aber wesentliche positive Auswirkungen für die Stadt haben. Als eine mögliche städtebauliche Auswirkung des AA LRT wird schon darüber nachgedacht, dass um die Haltestationen herum Fußgänger freundliche Gebäude und Infrastruktur geschaffen werden sollen, so dass mittelfristig der PKW Verkehr reduziert werden kann. Außerdem wird schon über eine Stadtbahnverbindung von Addis Abeba nach Adama nachgedacht, um die chronisch verstopfte südliche Aus- und Einfahrtsstrecke in die Stadt grundlegend zu entlasten. Weitere Zugstrecken in Äthiopien sind außerdem vorgesehen. Zwischen Addis Abeba und Djibuti wird schon an mehreren Stellen gebaut, um die wichtige Güter-Transportstrecke z.B. für Im- und Exporte auf Schienen befahren zu können. 2010 hatte die äthiopische Regierung eine Planung für 4850 km Bahnstrecke zur Verbindung von 49 Städten vorgelegt. Offensichtlich wird die Planung jetzt abgearbeitet.

Bis 2015 soll das AA LRT Projekt fertig sein. (Wenn, wie in verschiedenen Verlautbarungen geäußert, der Zeitrahmen beim AA LRT Projekt eingehalten wird und auch die Kosten nicht aus dem Ruder laufen, sollte man überlegen, ob zukünftig bei deutschen Großprojekten à la „Stuttgart 21“, „BER“, „Elbphilharmonie“ o.ä. nicht auch die äthiopisch - chinesische Arbeitsgemeinschaft zum Zuge kommen könnte?!)

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(Die Informationen für diesen Artikel wurde aus verschiedenen Internetquellen zusammengetragen. Unter dem Suchbegriff „AA LRT“ oder „Addis Ababa light railway“ findet man bei „Ecosia“ oder „Google“ viele Hinweise. Auch auf „Youtube“ findet man z.T. ganz stimmungsvolle Clips zum AA LRT und den Geschichten rund um den Bau.)

Apfelblüten bringen Hoffnung

Erschienen in: Projektinformation Äthiopien – Brot für die Welt - August 2013, http://www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/fileadmin/mediapool/Aethiopien/projektinformationen_aethiopien_eecmy.pdf

Wir bedanken uns für die freundliche Abdruckgenehmigung bei Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, Caroline-Michaelis-Str.1, 10115 Berlin.

Im äthiopischen Hochland hat die Mekane-Yesus-Kirche mit Hilfe von Brot für die Welt verschiedene Apfelsorten eingeführt. Schon 140 Familien haben davon profitiert.

Nun möchte die Kirche den Apfelanbau weiter ausbauen.

„Opa, bekomme ich einen Apfel?“ Der vierjährige Yimer hängt sich an den Jackensaum seines Großvaters und sieht ihn bittend an. She Seid Muhamed geht in die Knie und zieht den Jungen auf den Schoß. „Da, beiß hinein“, sagt er. Lachend beißt Yimer in den rotbackigen Apfel, den ihm sein Großvater hinhält. „Meine Enkelkinder lieben die Äpfel“, erzählt She Seid. Seit sechs Jahren stehen Apfelbäume im Garten des 48-Jährigen. In einer Gegend, in der man gemeinhin keine Obstgärten vermuten würde: auf über 3.000 Höhenmetern im Hochland Äthiopiens.

Die Apfelbäume sind Teil eines Projekts zur Ernährungssicherung, das die Mekane-Yesus-Kirche in der Provinz Wollo etwa 500 Kilometer nördlich der Hauptstadt Addis Abeba durchführt. Die Landkreise Legambo und Tenta, in denen der langjährige Brot-für-die-Welt-Partner arbeitet, werden von der Regierung als chronisch nahrungsunsicher eingestuft. Das Klima dort ist rau. Vor allem die Trockenheit macht den Bauernfamilien zu schaffen. Regen kommt nur unregelmäßig und dann so stark, dass der Boden das Wasser nicht halten kann. Überschwemmungen sind die Folge. Hänge rutschen ab, der Boden erodiert weiter. Immer wieder kommt es auch zu strengen Frösten, die vor allem dem Getreide zusetzen. Keine guten Voraussetzungen für eine funktionierende Landwirtschaft.

Mit Unterstützung der Mekane-Yesus-Kirche haben die Bauernfamilien in den vergangenen Jahren angefangen Gemüsegärten anzulegen, in denen sie Kartoffeln, Kohl, Mangold oder Rote Beete anbauen. Sie haben Wasserläufe in Bewässerungskanäle umgeleitet oder Flachbrunnen gegraben, um so ihre Gärten bewässern zu können. Und sie haben – so wie She Seid Muhamed – Apfelbäume gepflanzt. Der Vorteil: Der Apfel ist eine mehrjährige Frucht. Apfelbäume sind robust, sie halten Witterschwankungen aus. Während Weizen oder Gerste bei der nächsten Dürre vertrocknet, hält ein erwachsener Baum sogar eine längere Trockenperiode aus, ohne dass er gegossen werden muss. „Die Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass ein Apfelbaum vertrocknet, ist relativ gering“, erklärt Helmut Spohn. Der 62-Jährige Agraringenieur berät die Mekane-Yesus-Kirche seit vielen Jahren im Auftrag von Brot für die Welt und schult die Projektmitarbeitenden im Apfelanbau. „Die Bäume werfen in der Regel ihr Laub ab und treiben dann neu aus, wenn wieder Wasser zur Verfügung steht.“

Doch warum ausgerechnet Äpfel? „Es gibt kein einheimisches Obst“, erklärt Spohn. Früher waren wilde Früchte die Vitaminträger der Familien. Doch aufgrund des Bevölkerungswachstums und der damit verbundenen Beanspruchung der Landschaft sind diese weitgehend verschwunden. „Der Apfel ist eine gute Möglichkeit, Mangelernährung vorzubeugen“, sagt Spohn. „Vor allem, seit es die neuen Sorten gibt, die auch in den Tropen gedeihen.“ Die meisten Setzlinge für die Bauern kommen von einer spanischen Firma. Darunter eine gelbe Sorte namens Ana, die goldene Dorset Golden, die rot-backige Princesa oder die Sorte CP92.

Auch in Mehamed Alis Garten wachsen einige dieser Apfelsorten. Zwischen seinen Apfelbäumen, deren Zweige voll mit noch kleinen Früchten hängen, hat er Kohl und Knoblauch gepflanzt. In einer Ecke des Gartens steht ein Bienenstock. Bienenhaltung hat Tradition im äthiopischen Hochland. Für die Befruchtung der Apfelblüten ist also gesorgt. Der 55-jährige Bauer und seine Frau Jemaneh Aden haben sich in den vergangenen acht Jahren zu richtigen Apfelexperten gemausert.

„Wir mögen die Äpfel selbst gerne. Aber vor allem lassen sie sich gut verkaufen“, berichtet Jemaneh. Obwohl der Apfel keine einheimische Frucht ist, ist die Nachfrage groß. Bei vielen gilt er sogar als Heilmittel. Entsprechend oft wird er gekauft. Zwei bis drei Birn pro Apfel, etwa 10 Cent, verlangen die Bauern auf dem Markt. Bei einem Ertrag von 200 bis 500 Äpfeln je nach Größe des Baumes kommt da eine stattliche Summe zusammen. Inzwischen haben sich 60 der 137 Apfelbauern der Region zusammengetan und im nächstgrößeren Ort einen Lagerraum mit Verkaufsstelle eingerichtet.

Mit einer grünen Gartenschere schneidet Mehamed Ali einen seiner Bäume zurecht. Das Werkzeug hat die Mekane-Yesus-Kirche zur Verfügung gestellt. Mehamed teilt es sich mit sieben weiteren Bauern. Seine Frau holt derweil Wasser aus dem kleinen Betonbecken, das von einem Bewässerungskanal gespeist wird. Auch wenn die Äpfel Trockenheit überstehen, für das Wachstum der Früchte ist es besser, wenn hin und wieder gegossen wird. Sorgfältig gießt Jemaneh das Wasser in die äußere Rinne, die ihr Mann um die Bäume gezogen hat. „Es ist wichtig, dass das Wasser immer vom Stamm wegläuft“, erklärt sie. Direkt um den Stamm hat sie eine Strohschicht gestreut. „Damit kein Unkraut wächst. Außerdem dient das Stroh auch als Dünger.“ Dieses nötige Fachwissen haben Mehamed, Jemaneh und die andern Obstbauern bei Helmut Spohn und Marliese Rothweiler-Spohn sowie den Projektmitarbeitenden der Mekane-Yesus-Kirche erworben. Fünf Tage lang dauert die Schulung im Gästehaus der Kirche in der Region. Dazu kommen Auffrischungsseminare. „Wir haben unheimlich viel gelernt“, berichtet She Seid Muhamed. „Welche Sorten es gibt, wie man sie anbaut, wie man sie düngt, wie viel Wasser sie brauchen.“ Die Projektmitarbeitenden und Arbeiter halfen dann vor Ort mit, als die ersten Gärten angelegt wurden. „Mittlerweile haben einige Bauern angefangen, erfolgreich eigene Setzlinge zu ziehen und zu veredeln“, berichtet Helmut Spohn stolz. Bald werden sie alleine zurechtkommen, da ist der Berater sicher.

Und nicht nur das: Die Mekane-Yesus-Kirche nutzt ihre Erfahrung und ihr Wissen, um in einem vor zwei Jahren mit Geldern von Brot für die Welt gestarteten Projekt unweit der Landkreise Legambo und Tenta ebenfalls Apfelbäume einzuführen. Auch dort geht es darum, Bauernfamilien einen Zugang zu Wasser zu verschaffen, ihre Ernährungssituation zu verbessern und ihnen neue Einkommensmöglichkeiten zu eröffnen. Nach der Methode „Von Bauer zu Bauer“ schulen die erfahrenen Obstbauern aus Legambo und Tenta die Neulinge. Einige Bauernfamilien haben bereits die ersten Setzlinge erhalten. Noch sind ihre Gärten klein, die Pflänzchen oft nicht höher als einen halben Meter. Doch die ersten Blüten haben bereits angesetzt.

„Die Äpfel gehen weg wie warme Weckle“

Helmut Spohn und Ehefrau Marliese Rothweiler-Spohn stammen eigentlich von der Schwäbischen Alb. Seit vielen Jahren schulen und beraten sie im Auftrag von Brot für die Welt Bauernfamilien in der äthiopischen Provinz Wollo.

Äpfel sind keine einheimische Frucht in Äthiopien. Wie kam die Frucht dorthin?

Missionare haben in den 1930er Jahren versucht, den Apfel einzuführen. Allerdings sind die mitteleuropäischen Sorten für das tropische Klima nicht geeignet. Sie

brauchen mehr Kälte, um nach der Vegetationsruhe wieder auszutreiben. Es konnte also nicht funktionieren. In den 1970er Jahren kamen dann Sorten aus Spanien, Florida und Israel auf den Markt, die auch in wärmeren Gebieten angebaut werden können. Wir arbeiten im äthiopischen Hochland vorwiegend mit neuen Züchtungen aus Spanien, die einen sehr geringen Kältebedarf haben.

Wie kamen Sie auf die Idee, den Apfel für Entwicklungsprojekte nutzbar zu machen?

Wir hatten uns überlegt, was man den Bauern als mehrjährige Frucht anbieten kann. Die tropischen Früchte wie Orangen oder Mangos wachsen ab 2.000 Meter Höhe nicht mehr, weil es zu kalt wird. Früher hatten die Bauernfamilien wilde Früchte als Vitaminträger. Aber durch die hohe Beanspruchung der Böden sind die weitgehend verschwunden. Deshalb hat man nach Alternativen gesucht. Am besten eine mehrjährige Frucht, eine Obstsorte, die auch Wetterschwankungen aushält. In den 1980er Jahren hat der äthiopische Staat zusammen mit israelischen Beratern eine Farm aufgebaut, um Äpfel anzubauen. Das hat gut funktioniert. Später gab es in der Provinz Wollo dann ein von der Europäischen Union gefördertes Projekt zum Apfelanbau. So kam eines zum anderen. Und jetzt verbreiten wir in den Projekten der Mekane-Yesus-Kirche verschiedene Apfelsorten.

Äpfel auf über 3.000 Meter Höhe. Geht das von den klimatischen und topographischen Bedingungen her überhaupt?

Gerade auf der Höhe funktioniert der Apfelanbau gut, weil es da den nötigen Kältereiz gibt. Den braucht ein Apfelbaum, um auszutreiben. Die höchstgelegene Region, in der Äpfel angebaut werden, befindet sich in West-Wollo, auf 3.000 bis 3.800 Metern. Allerdings muss dort bewässert werden. Im Hochland gibt es aber in der Regel Quellen, Brunnen und Flüsse, um auch längere Trockenperioden zu überstehen. Das Besondere an den Hochlandsorten ist, dass sie schnell Früchte ansetzen. Innerhalb von fünf Monaten kann geerntet werden. Das heißt, die Bäume tragen in der Regel zweimal im Jahr Früchte. Sollte einmal nicht genug Wasser zum

Bewässern da sein, dann kann der zweite Erntezyklus auch ausfallen. Der Baum selbst kann etwa vier Monate Trockenheit gut aushalten.

Gibt es einen Markt für Äpfel in Äthiopien?

Ja, definitiv. Es hat sich schnell herumgesprochen, dass Äpfel gesund sind. Es gibt sogar Erzählungen von Menschen, die krank waren und nach dem Apfelverzehr gesund geworden sind. Vor allem in den Städten sind Äpfel beliebt. Da gibt es wohlhabendere Leute. Viele von ihnen haben im Ausland gelebt und kennen Äpfel von dort. Außerdem gibt es viele Ausländer. Addis Abeba ist der Sitz der Afrikanischen Union, es gibt 120 Botschaften. Der Verkauf ist also lukrativ. Die Äpfel gehen weg wie warme 'Weckle'.

Was machen die Äthiopier mit Äpfeln? Gibt es eigene Rezepte?

Auf dem Land wird alles roh gegessen. In den Städten kriegt man höchstens in großen Hotels Apfelkuchen. Apfelsaft wird importiert, weil sich die einheimischen Äpfel nicht sonderlich gut zur Saftproduktion eignen.

Wie kam es, dass Sie selbst in Äthiopien zum Apfelbauern wurden?

Ich bin jetzt 62 Jahre alt und habe fast die Hälfte meines Berufslebens in Äthiopien verbracht. 1973 war ich zum ersten Mal hier in einem Entwicklungsprojekt. Dann haben wir noch in einigen anderen ostafrikanischen Ländern und auch in Deutschland gearbeitet. Aber es hat uns immer wieder hierher zurückgezogen. Ich bin gelernter Landwirt. Außerdem habe ich Landwirtschaft studiert. Meine Frau ist auch Agraringenieurin. Seit einiger Zeit haben wir hier zwei Farmen für Obst- und Gemüseanbau. Wir produzieren auch Baumsetzlinge. Und wir arbeiten als Berater in der landwirtschaftlichen Ausbildung. In den Projekten von Brot für die Welt und der Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe haben wir die Bauern ausgebildet. Es waren auch Projektmitarbeiter auf unserer Farm, wo sie Kurse in Obstbaumanagement mitgemacht haben. Und wir sind mindestens zweimal im Jahr im Projektgebiet, um die Leute fortzubilden.

Initiativen

Das Wukro Museum

Konrad Melchers, Journalist

Zum jüngst ausgegrabenen Tempel der Di'amat Zeit

„Nähern wir uns dem archäologischen Beweis der äthiopischen Königin von Saba Legende?“ Fasziniert reagierte Lidj Asfa-Wossen Asserate mit dieser Frage auf den Vortrag von Pawel Wolf bei der 3. Internationalen Enno Littmann Konferenz Anfang April 2009 in Berlin. Wolf ist der Leiter der Ausgrabung eines Tempels für den Mondgott Almaqah, der 2007 in der Nähe der Stadt Wukro in Tigray entdeckt wurde.

Zwar wurden auch bei diesem etwa vor 2700 Jahren entstandenen Bauwerk keine Hinweise auf die sagenhafte Königin gefunden. Aber der Trankopferaltar, der erste vollständig erhaltene dieser Zeit, eine Frauenstatue und weitere Fundstücke enthalten Inschriften

spektakulären Inhalts, die Prof. Norbert Nebes, Linguist an der Universität Jena, entzifferte. Da heißt es u.a.: „Wa'ran, der König, ... , Sohn des Radi'um und der SaXXatum, der Gefährtin, hat dem Almaqah (diesen Altar) neu errichtet, als er zum Herrn des Tempels des Almaqah in Yeha berufen wurde ...“. Damit stellt sich ein bisher noch nicht bekannter König dieser Zeit vor. Und zum ersten Mal wird der Name Yeha, des größten Tempels aus dieser Zeit überhaupt, schriftlich bestätigt. Dass er über einen so langen Zeitraum unverändert geblieben ist, unterstreicht die Zuverlässigkeit mündlicher Überlieferungen in dieser Kultur.

Eigenständiges Di'amat Reich

Dass die Frau des Königs genannt wird, weist auf eine genuin afrikanische Kultur. Denn in ganz Arabien wird die Frau des Königs nie genannt im Unterschied zu alten afrikanischen Kulturen. Dieser Hinweis ist am bedeutendsten, war doch bisher vorherrschende Meinung, dass die damalige Kultur im heutigen Eritrea und dem nordäthiopischen Bundesstaat Tigray lediglich eine Kolonie des Reichs von Saba in Südarabien gewesen sei. Jetzt gibt es einen prominenten Beweis für die kulturelle

Eigenständigkeit der Di'amat genannten Herrschaft. Sie verwandte die sabäische Schrift und verehrte die gleichen Götter. Aber das sind keine Beweise für die Kolonialthese. So wurde z.B. am preußischen Hof Friedrichs des Großen Französisch gesprochen. Preußen war keine französische Kolonie. Das gleiche Phänomen gibt es bei den antiken Kulturen am Nil. Äthiopische Historiker wollen deshalb, dass diese Zeit nicht mehr die „äthio-sabäische“, sondern die „Di'amat-Periode“ genannt wird.



Innenansicht des Almaq-Tempels nach Norden mit Trankopferaltar

Ebenfalls spannend ist, wie der Tempel entdeckt wurde. In der Nähe war eine Schotterstraße geplant. Das Bauunternehmen wollte sich den Schotter von dem Hügel beschaffen, wo die Reste des Tempels unter jahrtausendalten Sedimenten ruhten. Die Bevölkerung warnte aber, dass sich im Hügel ein Geheimnis verberge. Auch hier erweist sich, wie wach das historische Volksgedächtnis in Äthiopien ist. So kam es zu einer Notgrabung äthiopischer Archäologen Ende 2007. Als die ersten Tempelfunde zutage kamen, wurde der ehemalige stellvertretende Direktor des ägyptischen Museums in Berlin, Prof. Steffen Wenig, gerufen, der im März 2008 nach Wukro reiste und sofort die historische Bedeutung der Funde erkannte, den Spezialisten für die sabäische Schrift, Prof. Nebes, einschaltete und das Deutsche Archäologische Institut (DAI) mobilisierte.

Rasche Umsetzung der Idee

Prof. Wenig gelangte umgehend mit dem Leiter der Kulturbehörde (CTA) von Tigray, Ato Kebede Amare, zur Überzeugung, dass die bedeutsamen Funde nicht nur sicher aufbewahrt, sondern auch der Öffentlichkeit präsentiert werden müssten. Bei diesem Wunsch blieb es nicht.

Schon im Mai 2009 hatte die Stadtverwaltung von Wukro ein Grundstück zur Verfügung gestellt, auf dem sich das ehemalige Elektrizitätswerk der Stadt befindet. Es war in den 80er Jahren als Selbsthilfeprojekt der Bevölkerung gebaut worden, im Bürgerkrieg aber Ort heftiger Kämpfe. Die abziehende Armee des Mengistu Regimes beschädigte den Generator so, dass er nicht mehr repariert werden kann. Das motivierte zwei Restauratoren der Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft, Berlin, Prof. Ruth Keller und Dietmar Linke, im Wesentlichen auf eigene Kosten den Generator als Industriedenkmal zu restaurieren. Aus dem großen Generatorgebäude wird ein multifunktionaler Großraum entstehen: für Versammlungen, Vorträge, Filmvorführungen und Wanderausstellungen und ein Bistro mit Museumsshop.

Steffen Wenig ergriff auch unverzüglich die Initiative, die „Gesellschaft zur Förderung von Museen in Äthiopien“ im August 2009 zu gründen. Dazu versammelte sich in der äthiopischen Kunstgalerie LISTROS in Berlin ein Kreis von Äthiopienspezialisten: Archäologen, Historiker und Ethnologen, neben Prof. Wenig, der zum Vorsitzenden gewählt wurde, Dr. Asfa-Wossen Assefate, Vorsitzender des Kuratoriums, die Archäologen des DAI, Dr. Ingrid Gerlach und Dr. Pawel Wolf, Prof. Walter Raunig, ehemaliger Direktor des Völkerkundemuseums München, Prof. Ivo Strecker, emeritierter Ethnologie-Professor Mainz und Initiator des Süd-Omo Museums, Prof. Michael Zach, Institut für Afrikawissenschaften Wien, Dr. Wolbert Smidt, Dozent an der Universität Mekelle, Tigray und die Ethnologin Dr. Kerstin Volker-Saad. Geschäftsführendes Vorstandsmitglied ist Nina Melchers.

Träger des Museums ist die CTA von Tigray. Sie beauftragte die Bauverwaltung von Wukro mit der Bauleitung. Die Mitarbeiter des örtlichen CTA-Büros sind eine wesentliche Stütze des Projekts. Ihr Büro wird in den Verwaltungstrakt des Museums ziehen. Damit werden Touristen, die sich über die Sehenswürdigkeiten der Region informieren und Führungen buchen wollen, an das Museum geführt. Wukro ist ein touristischer Knotenpunkt, in dessen Umkreis sich eine größere Zahl zum Teil sehr alter und berühmter Felskirchen befindet in spektakulären Gebirgslandschaften. Auch zur Negash Moschee, die für Muslime wichtigste Pilgerstätte in Äthiopien, ist es nicht weit.

Äthiopisch-deutsche Lastenverteilung

Darüber hinaus bildete sich ein zivilgesellschaftliches Komitee zur Unterstützung des Museums, hauptsächlich aus Lehrerinnen und Lehrern der Schulen in Wukro. An den drei Sekundarschulen der Stadt entstehen Geschichtsclubs der Schüler.

Überlegt wird der Aufbau eines äthiopischen Vereins der „Freunde des Wukro-Museums“. Dabei wird noch geprüft, ob und wie mit ähnlichen Museumsinitiativen in Äthiopien, einschließlich der Ausbildung von Fachpersonal an äthiopischen Universitäten, kooperiert werden kann.

Das Museumsgelände war ein Lagerplatz der Stadtverwaltung. In einer Aktion, an der sich 400 Bürgerinnen und Bürger von Wukro beteiligten, wurde das Gelände gesäubert, Steine gesammelt, daraus eine Schutzmauer um das Gelände gebaut und über 500 vielfältige Bäume und Büsche gepflanzt. Da sie in der langen Trockenzeit regelmäßig gewässert werden, sind sie schon nach einem Jahr zu einem blütenreichen Hain herangewachsen.

Die tigraysche Seite bestand darauf, dass für den Entwurf des Museums ein Architekt in Deutschland gewonnen wird. Unter drei Architektenbüros wurde ausgeschrieben. Gewonnen haben die brasilianisch-deutsch-kroatischen Nedelykov Moreira Architekten, die einen eleganten Entwurf vorlegten, der sich an traditionellen tigrayschen Bauformen orientiert.

Königin von Saba Kaffee

Schwierig wurde die Finanzierung. Das Auswärtige Amt lehnte eine Förderung ab. Es beschränkte sich auf die Finanzierung der Ausgrabung durch das DAI. Auf der Ausgrabungsstätte ist ein On-Site-Museum mit Repliken der Funde entstanden.

Die Regierung von Tigray übernahm 40% der Baukosten, die Museumsgesellschaft 60%. Darüber hinaus

stellt die Gemeinde Wukro, wie erwähnt, das Grundstück zur Verfügung und trägt die Kosten der Bauleitung durch die Bauverwaltung. Für die Kostenbeteiligung der Museums-gesellschaft fanden sich großzügige Förderer.

Für knapp die Hälfte der Baukosten mussten allerdings Kredite zu sehr günstigen Bedingungen aufgenommen werden. Das veranlasste die Gesellschaft zu einer ungewöhnlichen Methode, Spenden zu generieren. Beim Patentamt in München wurde „Königin von Saba“ als Marke eingetragen für ausgewählte Produkte aus Äthiopien, die eine Marktchance mit der Marke Königin von Saba haben. Erstes Produkt ist der Königin von Saba Kaffee aus genossenschaftlich hergestelltem äthiopischen Waldkaffee, der von der bremischen Traditionsrösterei Münchhausen geröstet und von ProCeram (www.proceram.de) vertrieben wird. Zwei Euro pro 250g-Packung gehen als Spende für das Museum an die Museums-gesellschaft. Möglichst bald soll der Kaffee auch in Äthiopien geröstet werden. Mit „Ariti Herbal PLC“, einem äthiopischen Unternehmen für Duftstoffe, Tees und Balsam wird beraten, wie Königin von Saba Pflanzenextrakte, die nicht nur als Duftstoffe, sondern oft auch als Heilmittel medizinisch eingesetzt werden, vermarktet werden können.

In der Nähe des Tempels gibt es eine große, neue Gerberei und Schuhfabrik, die schon den Namen „Sheba“ führt. Mit ihr wird ebenfalls beraten, wie ihre exzellenten Schuhe mit modernem Design zugunsten des Museums vermarktet werden können.

Eröffnung im Mai 2015

Seit Juni 2013 wird das Museum gebaut. Ein junger Bauunternehmer hatte die Ausschreibung gewonnen, an der sich sieben Unternehmen beteiligten. Sein Angebot war so günstig, dass eine erweiterte 1. Bauphase des Museums gebaut werden kann mit der Ausstellungshalle, dem zweistöckigen Verwaltungsgebäude, dem Umbau und der Renovierung des Generatorhauses als Multifunktionshalle und einem Magazin plus Werkstatt. Der Bau soll im April/Mai 2014 fertig sein. Aber die Inneneinrichtung wird noch Zeit in Anspruch nehmen, da es für Einrichtungsobjekte wie insbesondere Ausstellungsvitrinen kaum äthiopische Hersteller gibt.



Ausstellungshalle, Stand 2013

Das Museum soll im Frühjahr 2015 eingeweiht werden. Das festliche Ereignis wird dafür genutzt werden, die Bevölkerung von Wukro zu gewinnen, das Museum zum kulturellen Zentrum von Wukro zu machen und das Interesse möglichst vieler Touristik-Unternehmen zu wecken. Dafür wurde ein Vorbereitungskomitee gegründet. Auch die Mitglieder des Deutsch-Äthiopischen Vereins sind herzlich eingeladen, an der Eröffnung teilzunehmen. Informationen: www.museums-in-ethiopia.org

Erste Öko-Schule in Äthiopien errichtet

Niedersächsischer Landschaftsarchitekt in Afrikas Buschland tätig

Günther Quentin, Landschaftsarchitekt

Im afrikanischen Hochland (Addis 2.500 m ü.NN) ist man als Europäer überrascht vom täglichen Temperatursprung (nachts unter 10°C, tags über 30°C), als Landschaftsarchitekt sieht man die Stadt- und Landschaftsbildverseuchung durch zunehmende Wellblechverschandelung. Die miserablen Lebens- und Arbeitsbedingungen unter Blechdächern bei Temperaturunterschieden von mehr als 35°C in den Wohnhäusern, Büros und Schulen führten sehr bald zu Experimenten, Versuchsreihen und Temperaturmessungen mit „Gründächern“.

Ansatz und Organisation

Bei Neubauten in Addis (z.B. Amerikanische Botschaftsschule) und Öko-Lodges wurden und werden Gründachkonzepte und Regenwassernutzung bereits seit Jahren angewendet. Beim Reisen in diesem spannenden, aufregenden und liebenswerten Land zeigt sich die Stadt-Land-Diskrepanz: sehr geringe Alphabetisierung, viel zu wenig Schulen aber genügend Lehrer, die engagiert auch unter Bäumen Mehrschicht-Unterricht erteilen.

Es kam vor einem Jahr zu einem Kontakt in die Region Konso, ca. 600 km südlich von Addis. Eine sehr traditionsbewusste Kultur mit einer Jahrhunderte alten Terrassenanbaumethode und Permakultur. Der „König von Konso“, Clan Chief Kalla Gezahegn als Traditionsbewahrer war begeistert von der neuen Interpretation einer „nachhaltigen Bauweise“ als Weiterentwicklung der bisherigen Baukultur. Insbesondere die Umsetzung im Schulbau wurde auch von der Administration begrüßt und so wurden mehrere „bedürftige“ Schulen aufgesucht und nach ausgiebiger Diskussion eine Schule ca. 10 km westlich der Kleinstadt Konso ausgewählt, die erste „Modell-Öko-Schule“ zu bekommen.

Die notwendigen Gelder wurden von „viva humanidad e.V.“ aus Berlin zur Verfügung gestellt, deren Initiator und hauptberuflicher Musiker Axel Steinhagen selbst mit anpackte und mehrere Wochen tatkräftig zur Realisation beitrug. Kaum zu glauben, aber nach 4 Wochen Bauzeit stand das Gebäude mit geschlossenen Wänden, dichtem Dach und abschließbaren Türen und Fenstern.

Defizite der vorhandenen Schulen

Die üblichen Schulen wie auch alle anderen Gebäude sind aus gespaltenem, dicht an dicht in den Boden gerammten Eukalyptusstämmen ohne jegliche Fundamentierung gebaut. Von Innen und Außen werden die Ritzen grob mit Lehm verschmiert, der jedoch durch den sehr geringen Dachüberstand und die hier regelmäßigen starken Niederschläge sehr schnell wieder ausgewaschen wird. Die Standzeit wird mit 5 – 10 Jahren angegeben, dann brechen die Gebäude sehr schnell wieder zusammen (Feuchtigkeit in den Wänden, Termiten mögen feuchtes Holz, die Blechdächer sind sehr schnell undicht...). Die Schüler hocken meistens ohne Bänke und Tische auf dem Boden in dunklen, schlecht belüfteten, bei Sonnenschein über 40°C heißen, bei Regen 10°C kalten und mit über 90 dBA sehr lauten Räumen auf dem feuchten Boden. Bei üblichen Klassenstärken von mehr als 50 Schülern schafft nur ein Prozent der Schüler in die nächste

Unterrichtsstufe (secondary) aufzusteigen. Über die Qualität und Pädagogik des Unterrichts muss an anderen Stellen diskutiert werden.



Das Baukonzept

Das Planum und der Fundamentaushub wurden mit der Dorfgemeinschaft hergestellt. Frühmorgens standen 150 Leute vor uns, ein jeder mit Hilfsgeräten wie Holzstangen, Tüchern und Ziegenfellen zum Transport des Aushubs. Es war unsere Aufgabe, die Fläche abzustechen und den vielen Menschen zu erklären, das Aushubmaterial zu sortieren: Steine, Erde und organische Teile jeweils getrennt.

Nach wenigen Stunden waren ca. 30 m³ Aushub bewältigt und der Tag fand mit protestantischem Gesang und Tanz seinen Abschluss. Für die Fundamente wurden noch zusätzlich Basaltblöcke aus einem nahen Steinbruch angefahren und der Sand wurde direkt neben der Baustelle aus dem Flusslauf gewonnen. Der Zement wurde von der Kommune gesponsert, nach 4 Tagen mit 10 Arbeitern waren die Fundamente fertig.

Die Eukalyptusstämme stammen direkt vom Schulgelände, nach einer Woche war das komplette Ständerwerk inklusive der Dachkonstruktion abgeschlossen. Die Sparren wurden mit vorbereiteten Bohlen beplankt und nach wenigen Tagen konnte die in Addis vorbereitete PE-Folie schon vor den starken, kurzen Regenschauern schützen.

Der Aushubboden wurde gesiebt und mit Sand abgemagert, gemischt, mit Hand, Fuß und mit Wasser vorbereitet für die Lehmsteinproduktion. In vorbereiteten Modulen wurden von fünf Arbeitern ca. 350 Lehmblöcke pro Tag hergestellt, die nach 2-3 Tagen Trocknungszeit fast die Härte von gebrannten Ziegeln hatten. In 10 Tagen Mauerwerksarbeit wurden ca. 3.500 Lehmblöcke vermauert nachdem das Ständerwerk mit Karnikeldraht umwickelt war.

Die Gebäudefläche wurde mit den Steinresten (per Hand zu Schotter geschlagen) aufgefüllt, um den Fußboden vor der aufsteigenden Feuchtigkeit zu schützen. Das „Hochfenster“ über dem Vordach mit Well-Lichtplatten-Glas kennt man in dieser Region noch nicht und es wäre wahrscheinlich auch sehr schnell zerstört - konnte nicht fertig gestellt werden, da der Generator zum Betrieb unserer Kreissäge nicht zur Verfügung stand.

Die Probleme

Zwei Deutsche haben im afrikanischen Busch Sprachprobleme. In Addis spricht jeder Englisch, in 5 Jahren lernt man auch etwas Amharisch, aber sich in

Äthiopien mit ca. 200 Sprachen mit der Landbevölkerung zu verständigen war nicht denkbar. Immer wieder konnten aber Lehrer, Verwaltungsmitarbeiter oder gute Freunde übersetzen, was sich wir Weißen wieder mal ausgedacht hatten. Am Besten klappte es jedoch, die einzelnen Arbeitsschritte und Handhabungen vorzumachen, dabei zu stehen und zu korrigieren.

Die Landbevölkerung ist es nicht gewohnt, täglich über mehrere Wochen pünktlich zur Arbeit zu erscheinen und kontinuierlich zu arbeiten. Letztendlich haben wir durch Motivationsanreize und auch gemeinsame Mahlzeiten und am Abend Musik und Tanz es geschafft, dass unser Ziel in 4 Wochen eine 200 m² Schule mit örtlichen Laien und weitestgehend örtlichen Materialien zu errichten erreicht wurde.



Resümee und weitere Schritte

Innerhalb kürzester Zeit ist nach ökologischen Grundsätzen und in Weiterentwicklung der lokalen Baukultur ein Schulgebäude mit zwei Klassenräumen für ca. 120 Schüler entstanden. Die verwendeten Baustoffe sind weitestgehend direkt auf der Baustelle entnommen, lokale Arbeiter haben gelernt, ein langlebiges, gut belichtetes und klimatisch ausgeglichenes Gebäude mit Fundament und Gründach zu bauen.

Neben der Fertigstellung des Schulgebäudes im Februar 2014 ist noch die Installation einer Photovoltaikpaneele mit einer Wasserpumpe vorgesehen, um lehmiges Grundwasser über das Gründach zu filtrieren, damit die Schüler sauberes Trinkwasser über die Fallrohre auffangen können.

Aus den sehr positiven Erfahrungen haben sich nun die weiteren Planungen ergeben, direkt neben der Schule ein neues „Trainingszentrum für nachhaltiges Bauen“ aufzubauen. Nach der gleichen Baumethode sollen die ersten Schulungsräume und Informationsgebäude entstehen. Die künftigen Lehrgangsteilnehmer werden dann weitere Klassenräume für diese und auch benachbarte Schulen errichten. Die bisherigen „Arbeiter“ werden als Seminarleiter vorher trainiert, eine regelmäßige Weiterbildung durch deutsche Experten ist geplant.

Auch der König, die Schulleitung und die Verwaltung waren erstaunt, wie schnell und ausdauernd mit viel Freude gearbeitet wurde. Die an die Arbeiter gerichtete Frage wie es kommt, dass Alle jeden Tag wieder mit Engagement dabei sind wurde uns mit dem Satz begründet: „Es ist die erste Baustelle, wo wir jeden Tag neue Sachen lernen können, so etwas haben wir vorher noch nicht erlebt“; und letztendlich unterstreicht der Originalsatz eines Arbeiters unseren Einsatz: „That's the spirit of doing“.

PS. Sie können einen Kurzfilm dieser Aktion auch über www.vivahumanidad.de sehen.

Kurzporträt:

Günther Quentin, geb. 1952, Studium Architektur und Landschaftsarchitektur, seit 1978 als Landschaftsarchitekt selbständig in Südniedersachsen, Büro bis zu 40 Mitarbeitern, Projekte der ökologischen Landschaftsplanung, LRP, LP, GOP, Stadtsanierung und Dorferneuerung, diverse Auszeichnungen und Wettbewerbserfolge, erster Schwimmteich in BRD, Mitarbeit

in versch. Gremien des Berufsstandes und der Gesetzgebung, Hochschultätigkeiten, nach 30 Jahren Berufserfahrung mit mehr als 850 Projekten in 3 Kontinenten, geht mit seiner Ehefrau Dr. Beate Birkigt-Quentin 2007 nach Addis Abeba, Äthiopien, seine Frau als Professorin zum Aufbau des Masterstudiengangs für Environmental Planning and Urban Design, er als Freischaffender.

Kontakt: Quentin@Quentin.de

Vernissage: Äthiopiens Grünes Wunder

Abaháui - The Father of Fire. Sustainable Land Management in Tigray.
Ein Kurzfilm über das grüne Wunder

Bernd Hoffmann, DÄV-Mitglied

Das gibt es nicht allzu oft, wird sich die GIZ gedacht haben, und da es augenscheinlich klappt sollten wir mal einen Film drüber machen, Motto: Tue gute Entwicklungszusammenarbeit und rede drüber.

Ein recht professioneller Kurzfilm ist daraus entstanden. Thema: Äthiopiens grünes Wunder. Und wie der Filmemacher dann in der recht ungewöhnlichen Location (Stadtteilbüro des Frankfurter Bahnhofsviertels) über den möglichen Sieg mit einem Wasserbau-Projekt über die Ödnis in Tigray gesprochen hat, hat die fast 50 Leute dann schon interessiert und in den Bann gezogen.

Es hat einen Moment gedauert, bis ich verstand, warum die Werbeagentur „Vier-für-Texas“ mit eingeladen hatte. Der Autor Fabian Schwan-Brandt arbeitet für die Agentur und die GIZ wollte wohl für so ein erfolgreiches Projekt eine professionelle PR. Gut so, Motto: siehe oben. Wie der Filmemacher anfangs erzählte war er für drei Wochen in Tigray, um diese offenbare Erfolgsstory zu dokumentieren und er konnte seine Begeisterung für das grüne Wunder auch gut rüberbringen.

Und die Geschichte von der staubigen Wüste, die die Menschen in der Gegend um Abraha Atsbeha, in eine grüne Oase wandeln konnten, war auch noch an den Wänden mittels schöner Fotos nachzuvollziehen. Man

hätte die Fotos auch kaufen können, als Spende für eine NGO in Addis.

Doch zuerst gabs' Ingera und Wot und das Publikum, eine junge Mischung aus GIZ Mitarbeitern und Werbeleuten, ließ es sich schmecken. Leider waren nur sehr wenige Äthiopier da, um sich mal über eine Erfolgsstory in ihrem Land zu informieren.

Dann kam der Film, über den ich hier nicht viel schreiben will, jeder kann ihn sich selbst auf Youtube unter <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S67GaY-VwS4> ansehen.

Gut war, dass Dr. Eckhart Bode von der GIZ, der ehemalige Leiter des Projektes, danach über die Hintergründe informierte. Und da wurde dann auch wieder von den besonderen Bedingungen in dieser Gegend, den dicken Brettern, die man bohren musste und der Geduld, die man haben muss, geredet. Die ersten Anfänge gehen auf 1996 zurück. Und wie so oft bei solchen Projekten, gibt es da einen Mann, einen einheimischen Macher, den „Abaháui“, „den Vater des Feuers“, den Vorsteher des Dorfes Abraha Atsbeha, mittlerweile eine bekannte Person in Äthiopien, einen, der wohl an vielen anderen Stellen fehlt und vielleicht deshalb die schönen Dämme woanders so schnell zerbrechen.

Jetzt kann man nur hoffen, dass aus den 30 mal 10.000 ha bewässerbarer Fläche überall noch viel mehr wird und dann kann die GIZ noch viele Filme über solche Projekte machen lassen. Weil es ja auch wirklich manchmal positiv sein kann.

Film unter <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S67GaY-VwS4>, weitere Infos vom Autor unter: <http://abahai.tumblr.com/>

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Bücher

Zwischen Christentum, Islam und Globalisierung: Über Äthiopien und das Horn von Afrika

Bernd Wohlhut

Warum soll ein chinesischer Manager Arbeitsplätze in China schaffen und seinen Landsleuten 150 Dollar Monatslohn zahlen, wenn äthiopische Arbeiter die gleiche Leistung für 50 Dollar erbringen? Der Autor, der als Zivilbeschäftigter für die US-Armee arbeitet und bereits über Afghanistan zwei Bücher veröffentlichte, recherchierte über die Situation in Äthiopien und am Horn von Afrika.

Die leise Einflussnahme des Islam aus Saudi-Arabien, die Interessen von China und den USA, das (innere) Verhältnis und die Entwicklungen der Staaten Äthiopien, Somalia und Eritrea vor dem Hintergrund der Globalisierung. Durch „land grabbing“ versuchen nicht nur die Araber ihren Lebensmittelbedarf zu decken, auch die Europäer sind zur Umsetzung der Energiewende und des Klimaschutzes dazu in Äthiopien aktiv. Staudammprojekte zur Stromgewinnung sorgen für weitere Spannungen zwischen dem christlichen Äthiopien und seinen muslimischen Nachbarn im Sudan und Ägypten, welche von Saudi-Arabien unterstützt werden.

Verlag: Shaker Media; Auflage: 1., Aufl. (Dez. 2013), 158 Seiten, ISBN-10: 3956310721, Euro 18,90

Wörterbuch Oromo-Deutsch / Deutsch-Oromo

Melkamu Duresso

Das Volk der Oromo ist eine der zahlenmäßig größten Ethnien auf dem afrikanischen Kontinent und ist in Äthiopien, Nordkenia, Somalia und dem Sudan beheimatet. Die gemeinsame Sprache, die der ostkuschitischen Sprachfamilie angehört, wird von rund 30 Millionen Menschen gesprochen. Mit insgesamt rund 25.000 Einträgen beinhaltet dieses zurzeit modernste und umfangreichste Wörterbuch seiner Art das Grundvokabular und wesentliche Fachtermini beider Sprachen sowie zahlreiche Begriffe der Alltagssprache in ihrer gegenwärtigen Sprachgestalt. Zu jedem Lemma wird die Aussprache in internationaler Lautschrift angegeben, sodass auch Anfänger ohne Kenntnis der Aussprache und Betonungsregeln einen hohen praktischen Nutzen aus dem Band ziehen können. Wichtige grammatikalische Angaben, die Verwendung von das Verständnis erleichternden Synonymen sowie differenzierte Hinweise zum jeweiligen Gebrauchskontext bei Homonymen gewährleisten eine schnelle, benutzerfreundliche Orientierung.

Verlag: Buske; Auflage: 1 (März 2014), 580 Seiten, ISBN-10: 387548648X, Euro 58,00

The Hamar of Southern Ethiopia: Berimba's Resistance - The Life and Times of a Great Hamar Spokesman

As told by his son Aike Berinas

Ivo Strecker

When Balambaras Aike Berinas, also called Baldambe, told me the story of his father, I felt very privileged to be the one to record and translate his exciting narrative, realizing it was a 'historic' moment: Spoken words were being transformed into written ones, and a text with its own distinctive features and literary style was emerging. The drama of Berimba's Resistance was played out in the hot and rugged terrain of southern Ethiopia where, in the aftermath of the Ethiopian conquest, Berimba (ca. 1875 - 1952) was chosen by the Hamar to act as their spokesman. Baldambe relates in minute detail how Berimba dealt and negotiated with the intruders, and how he resisted their often high-handed rule until eventually he was murdered.

ISBN 9783643903433, 264 Seiten, LIT Verlag – 2013, Euro 19,90

Mit dem englischen Expeditionscorps in Abessinien

Gerhard Rohlfs

Im Jahr 1867 machte sich der deutsche Schriftsteller und Afrikaforscher Gerhard Rohlfs auf den Weg zu einer Expedition in das ostafrikanische Kaiserreich Abessinien. Abessinien bestand von etwa 980 v.Chr. bis 1974 und lag auf dem heutigen Gebiet von Äthiopien und Eritrea. Rohlfs beschreibt eindrucksvoll die anstrengende, teils gefährliche und abenteuerliche Expedition mit langen Fußmärschen und vielen interessanten Entdeckungen, die er als Begleiter der englischen Armee gemacht hat. Das vorliegende Buch ist ein Nachdruck der längst vergriffenen Originalausgabe von 1869. Verlag: Vero (Dez. 2013), 204 Seiten, ISBN-10: 3957380243, Euro 34,50

Links

http://www.giz.de/de/downloads/nahdran02_web_Frieden_durch_Mediatoren.pdf

Der Friedensfürst

Wo viele Menschen auf knappe Ressourcen treffen, sind Konflikte vorprogrammiert. In Südäthiopien versuchen Mediatoren, diese zu lösen – mit traditionellen und neuen Methoden. Einer von ihnen ist Kalla Gezahegn. Für nah dran beschreibt das Oberhaupt der Konso, wie er den Frieden für sein Volk bewahrt.

<http://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/sites/ziviler-friedensdienst.org/files/anhang/publikation/zfd-merging-ethiopian-wise-counsel-mediation-and-facilitative-mediation-1949.pdf>

Shimgelina - under the shade

Merging Ethiopian Wise-Counsel Mediation and Facilitative Mediation - A Training Manual

<http://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/sites/ziviler-friedensdienst.org/files/anhang/publikation/zfd-investigating-potential-peace-committees-ethiopia-1941.pdf>

Investigating the Potential of Peace Committees in Ethiopia

<http://www.ziviler-friedensdienst.org/sites/ziviler-friedensdienst.org/files/anhang/publikation/zfd-faces-peace-radio-2004.pdf>

Peace Radio - GIZ Ethiopia, April 2013

<http://sun-connect.net/fileadmin/DATEIEN/Dateien/SEI-WP-2013-09-Ethiopia-energy-access.pdf>

Mainstreaming Sustainable Energy Access into National Development Planning: the Case of Ethiopia. Stockholm Environment Institute, Working Paper 2013-09

Links zu Videos

<http://www.thenewafrika.info/emerging-spaces-day-addis-ababas-condominiums>

A Day In A Condominium

TheNewAfrica - 19.10.2013, Video - 17 Min.

Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, is in transformation. Currently the home of approximately four million inhabitants, the city might triple its size within the next 30 years due to the increasing rural to urban migration, as well as natural growth. ...

<http://www.felixheisel.de/html/supporting.html>

Supporting Spaces - A day on Addis Ababa's streets from Felix Heisel, Video - 16 min.

Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, is in transformation. Currently the home of approximately four million inhabitants, the city might triple its size within the next 30 years due to the increasing rural to urban migration, as well as natural growth. In 2011, the Addis Ababa City Administration announced to redevelop all 'informal' and 'unplanned' parts of the city until 2020. Even if the physical conditions of the informal settlements are very poor, the social networks, as well as spatial and cultural

values developed and embedded in these areas are worth the preservation and study. We believe that its informal sector can teach important lessons about the use of architecture and its social role.

This movie is an educational 24h documentary on the use of space in the informal parts of Ethiopia's capital.

<http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/hauptnavigation/sta-rtseite#beitrag/video/2041122/MISEREOR:-Rehabilitation-Behinderter>

ZDF-Mediathek 4.12.2013: Rehabilitation Behinderter (ca. 4 Min.)

In Äthiopien, in der Stadt Shashemene unterstützt MISEREOR ein Projekt, dass die Rehabilitation behinderter Kinder und Jugendlicher zum Ziel hat. Oft fehlt das Geld für Brillen, Hörgeräte und mehr.

<http://www.br.de/mediathek/video/sendungen/sternstunden-qala/sternstunden-amref-hebammen-aethiopien-100.html>

Hebammen für Äthiopien in der Afar-Region

Sternstunden - 16.12.2013 - Bayerisches Fernsehen (3 Min.)

Press Review

Extracts from ETHIOPIA Seven Days Update¹

compiled by
Harmen Storck

- Conflict in Somalia

Reports from Baidoa the provincial capital of Bay Region suggest that additional troops from Ethiopia arrived at Baidoa. Reliable sources obtained by Shabelle Media Network confirmed that Ethiopia troops arrived at Baidoa will hand over the overall security of Bay, Bakol and Gedo regions. On the other hand news sources from Baladweyne town the capital of Hiran Region noted that also Ethiopian forces reached at Kalaberka intersection in Baladweyne town (Shabelle Radio, Jan. 28).

More than 4,000 Ethiopian troops have been formally absorbed into the African Union force in Somalia. They will be responsible for security in the south-western regions of Gedo, Bay and Bakool, the AU said. Ethiopia's contribution takes the AU force to the 22,000-strong level mandated by the UN Security Council. The BBC's international development correspondent Mark Doyle says the troops from the Ethiopian army - one of most battle-hardened in Africa - will be based in Baidoa, some 300km north-west of Mogadishu. There was a flag ceremony on Wednesday morning in the town to welcome them and hand over the security of the region. "The Ethiopian deployment will permit Burundian and Ugandan forces to move into parts of Lower and Middle Shabelle," the AFP news agency quotes an Amisom statement as saying (BBC, Jan. 22).

¹ Waag Communications News Digest Service, Addis Ababa

Links zu Kooperativen

http://www.ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/es_swp57.pdf

Women's Participation in Agricultural Cooperatives in Ethiopia

Thomas Woldu, Fanaye Tadesse: Research Officer, Ethiopia Strategy Support Program, Ethiopian Development Research Institute and Marie-Katherine Waller: International Gender and Research Consultant for Oxfam, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - June 2013

http://euricse.eu/sites/euricse.eu/files/db_uploads/documents/1363096760_n2313.pdf

"Impact of agricultural cooperatives on smallholders' technical efficiency: evidence from Ethiopia", Euricse Working Paper n. 50 | 13

Abate G. T., Francesconi G. N. and Getnet K. (2013)

http://api.ning.com/files/464c0NtXZtDs3-DGp0RziNVQaTPSSRO*4np2q7x0UaI4G1PRQeVzXmI6zNOXGAR8-xiqLonmnlpW-RwUedIEmMdP5qED0b/AgriculturalCooperativeSectorDevelopmentStrategy201220163.pdf

Agricultural Cooperatives Sector Development Strategy 2012-2016, June 2012

- Economics, Finance, Commerce

GNP, Economic Growth, Budget, Inflation Rate

Ethiopia's inflation rate jumped to 8.5% in October from 6.9% a month earlier, driven primarily by higher food prices, according data from Ethiopia's Central Statistical Agency. Food prices rose 7.8% over the 12-month period compared with 4.3% year-on-year in September, the Central Statistics Agency said. The non-food inflation rate fell to 9.2% in October after a 10% rise in September. The International Monetary Fund projected Ethiopia's inflation rate will remain in single digits over the next two fiscal years (Reuters, Nov. 14).

Ethiopia's economy is projected to grow 7.5%, the IMF said at a press briefing on Regional Economic Outlook of sub-Saharan Africa 2013 and macroeconomic developments and policies in Ethiopia. IMF Resident Representative Jan Mikkelsen said that in recent years, economic growth in Ethiopia has been robust (The Ethiopian Herald, Nov. 7).

Debts, Credits, Grants

The United Kingdom (UK) has pledged to provide an £80m support for Ethiopia to improve access to safe drinking water, according to the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy. Water, Irrigation and Energy State Minister Kebede Gerba told that the financial aid agreement is expected to be signed soon. The support will help Ethiopia attain the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) in the water sector, Kebede said. In addition to the UK's pledge, the government of Ethiopia has been endeavoring to solicit more than 450m USD to further improve the access, he said. Ethiopia has set a target of raising its potable water coverage to 98% at the end of the GTP period from 68.4% now, he noted. More than 21.2 million people across the country have got access to safe drinking water during the first three years of the GTP period, according to Kebede. Activities are also underway to make over 15 million people (2.1

million in urban and 13.1 million in rural areas) beneficiaries of safe drinking water this Ethiopian budget year, he said (WIC, Jan.21).

The government of Ethiopia and the World Bank (WB) signed a 110m USD loan agreement to support the third phase of the Pastoral Community Development Project. The objective of the project is to improve access to community demand-driven social and economic services for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. Finance and Economic Development Minister, Sufian Ahmed said the objective of the project is to ensure the benefit of the pastoralist community from various social services. The money will be used to support the construction of health and educational facilities, veterinary clinics, small irrigation schemes and rural roads. Pastoralists in 113 pastoralist woredas in Afar, Somali, Oromia and SEPS will benefit from the project (ENA, Jan. 18).

Japan has provided 500m yen in assistance to Ethiopia to support its efforts to transform the agriculture sector, Prime Minister Hailemariam said. Prime Minister Abe has also agreed to establish the African Kaizen Center which Japan plans to set up in Africa to support the continent's industrial development. Prime Minister Abe has also agreed to double the bilateral trade cooperation with Ethiopia (State media, Jan. 14).

The government of Ethiopia and France signed two loan agreements amounting to 70m € to support the construction of high-voltage transmission lines and sanitary landfill. Some 50m € of the total assistance will be used to finance the implementation of reinforcing power transmission network. It will finance the erection of 62km of 400kv transmission lines and the construction of corresponding new substations. The 20m € assistance will be used to support the Addis Ababa City Administration's waste management program. The fund will finance the construction of a new sanitary landfill including access road, as well as infrastructure and facilities for both waste selecting and recycling (WIC, Dec. 20).

The government of Ethiopia and the World Bank signed loan and grant agreements amounting to 102.96m USD to support the Sustainable Land Management Project (SLMP II). Some 50m USD of the total assistance was secured from the World Bank while the balance was obtained from the government of Norway through the Multi Donor Trust Fund, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Least Developed Countries Trust Fund. The assistance will be used to finance the implementation of the second phase of the Project aimed at reducing land degradation and improve land productivity in selected watersheds in six regional states. Close to 1.85 million people are expected to benefit directly or indirectly from the project (State media, Dec. 10).

The House of People's Representatives ratified the 320m USD financing agreement signed between the government of Ethiopia and Import-Export Bank of China. The loan agreement was signed to finance the Addis Ababa-Adama highway road project. According to the agreement, 143m USD of the total assistance will be used to finance the Addis Ababa-Adama highway, while the balance will go to finance Lebu-Akaki-Goro road (ENA, Nov. 29).

The European Union signed a development grant with Ethiopia worth 212.4m € to help finance road construction and projects targeting maternal health and drought resilience. Ethiopia is midway through a five-year economic plan that foresees almost tripling the country's road network and beginning the building of 5,000 km of new railway lines. Addis Ababa's big push on infrastructure is aimed at connecting remote regions and has propelled the economy to double-digit growth for much of the last decade (WIC, Nov. 25).

The governments of Ethiopia and China signed a financing agreement amounting to 101.5bio Yuan to support various projects. Some 100bio Yuan will go to projects to be carried out jointly by the two governments. The balance, 1.5bio Yuan, will finance the airport expansion project, according to the agreement. The two parties have also signed agreements to strengthen the economic and technical cooperation as well as cooperation between Confucius University and Addis Ababa University, and the China-Ethiopia technology library, research and science park, China cultural center in Ethiopia (ENA, Nov. 26).

Foreign Trade

Ethiopia will not be ready to open up financial and other essential sectors to gain WTO accession until 2015, according to the Ministry of Trade. This is in contrast with the 2011 Growth and the Transformation Plan (GTP), which promised the finalization of accession within its four-year term. Geremew Ayalew, director general of trade relation and negotiations directorate at the Ministry of Trade (MoT), confirmed that the government targeted WTO accession in the GTP. However, that is not going to happen, he said, as the government prioritized sectors such as telecom, finance and energy, meaning that opening up is not likely to happen until the end of 2015. (The Reporter, Jan. 11).

Revenue of 165m USD was earned from the manufacturing sector over the past five months, the Ministry of Industry said. Corporate Communications Director in the ministry, Melaku Taye, told that the amount obtained during the reported period exceeded the previous year's by 22%. The revenue was obtained from the export of textiles and garment, leather and leather products, processed agricultural products, pharmaceutical and chemical products (ENA, Dec. 16).

Investment and Investment Policy

Ethiopian President Mulatu Teshome laid the foundation stone of a Turkish textile compound in the African country. The \$175-m compound, meant to be the largest in Ethiopia, would feature four factories. According to the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce, Turkish investments in Ethiopia hit \$1.8 billion by the end of last February. In recent years, many Turkish companies set their sights on Ethiopia for untapped investment opportunities, taking the volume of trade exchange from only \$30m in 2006 to \$400m in 2013 (World Bulletin, Jan. 29).

The US-based manufacturing giant, General Electric (GE), is planning to establish a medical equipment assembly plant in Ethiopia. Reliable sources told that the US multinational company is planning to assemble various medical equipment and machines in Ethiopia and distribute them to African markets. "They want to use the extensive cargo flight network of Ethiopian Airlines," sources told. The amount of the investment and specific list of items the company wants to assemble here are not yet known (The Reporter, Jan. 25).

The Turkish textile factory MNS Manufacturing P.L.C. has launched the first phase production of carpet, towel and bathrooms, polyester, fiber-line home furniture (spring mattress and sofa) investing over 1.2bio birr. The company has been undertaking expansion activities in three phases around Legetafo area. The factory, which has completed construction and equipment installation, has entered the first production phase and is expected to finalize phase two and three very soon (WIC, Jan. 22).

Land lease bid prices and quotations have continued to soar due to scarcity of land. This fiscal year, the government has put on bid 1,220 ha on lease. The result of the fifth land lease bid will be announced on Jan. 18. In the last bid, a sum of 32,000 birr was offered for a sq. m of land in Wello Sefer of Kirkos Sub-city (Reporter, Jan. 15).

Huda Real Estate which belongs to Sheikh Al- Amoudi has refused to hand over the land it had kept idle for years without starting any investment. The Addis Ababa Administration had earlier ordered the real estate company to hand over the land as it could not start any work as agreed upon with the government. The land is located in Lideta sub-city near the Wabe Shebelle Hotel. Huda kept the land idle for the past 10 years. The company has approached the administration to reverse its order by pledging to start the projects soon. The Addis Ababa Administrations is expected to reconsider the appeal. Huda had plans to build a 20-storey twin building (Reporter, Jan. 1).

The Ministry of Industry (Mol) said the Bole Lemi Industry Zone development is at its first phase. According to Melaku Taye, corporate communication director at the ministry, this includes the building of five factory buildings. Three factory buildings covering an area of 5,000 sq. m each and two structures each with an area of

1.000 sq. m have been completed at a cost of over 348.9m birr, Melaku told (WIC, Dec. 30).

An Ethio-American company based in the US, North Holdings Investment Inc., will build a new cement factory with an outlay of USD 800m. North Holdings Investment Inc president, Temesgen M. Bitew, told that his company is planning to build the factory in east Gojjam, Dejen wereda, Menda locality. Temesgen said with two production lines the factory will have the capacity to produce 8.4 million t of cement. According to Temesgen, the feasibility study was completed and the company will hire a Danish contractor called FLS which will build the factory, supply and install the machinery. Temesgen said the company will secure loan for the project from a London based investment bank. The project includes the establishment of a cement bag factory, a transport company and a coal manufacturing plant. In order to be energy self sufficient, North Holdings plans to build a coal manufacturing plant in Gonder, Chilga locality, where there are coal deposits. According to Temesgen, the total cost of the investment will reach 1.1bio \$. The company has secured a 250 ha plot of land and hopes to start work on the project in the New Year. When the whole project is realized fully, it will create 15,000 jobs, according to Temesgen. The Ministry of Mines has granted a limestone mining license to North Holdings. According to the Ministry of Mines, the license area covers 24,513 sq. km plot of land and the mining license will be valid for 20 years. North Holdings is a business corporation established by 12 business people in Delaware, United States in 2006 (The Reporter, Dec. 29).

The Ethiopian Investment Agency said it has issued licenses for investment projects worth 1.5bio birr in the first five months of the budget year. The Agency's Corporate Communication Director, Getahun Negash, told that the 337 projects licensed during the period are owned by foreign investors. Getahun said the projects are in manufacturing, hotel and tourism, agriculture and construction. The Ethiopian Investment Agency plans to issue licenses for 967 projects (WIC, Dec. 23).

The Sino-Ethiopia Associate (Africa) PLC, a capsule manufacturer, has built an additional factory in Addis Ababa at a cost of over 100m Birr. The new factory has a capacity to produce 1.2 billion capsules per year, which increases the total production capacity of the company to 2.4 billion. The company's Executive Secretary, Zaf Gebretsadik, said the factory is producing standard capsules and fully meets the local demand. She said the company is exporting its product to South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Sudan and Yemen (state media, Dec.16).

Chinese footwear maker Huajian Group plans to make Ethiopia the hub for the global footwear industry and create more than 100,000 jobs locally in the next 10 years. The company, which first moved to Ethiopia to offset rising labor and raw material costs in China, says it has teamed up with the China- Africa Development Fund and the Ethiopian Ministry of Industry to establish a light-manufacturing base in Ethiopia. Covering an area of 318 ha near the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, the proposed zone will have facilities for shoemaking, other light manufacturing, commercial facilities and residential communities. It will house more than 50,000 families and generate revenue of \$4bio from exports. According to Wei, Huajian has invested more than \$6m on shoemaking facilities since 2011 at the Oriental Industrial Zone in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. A four-line shoemaking plant and a shoe materials plant in the park have helped the Chinese company make 837,400 pairs of shoes in Ethiopia in the first 10 months of this year and generate revenue of \$13.06m (WIC, Dec. 17)..

Like the American Walmart or the Kenyan Nakumatt Holdings, Alle will operate in the wholesale market as an Ethiopian version of a cash and carry business. The privately run Alle will have 1bio birr of startup capital. Joy Muchina, public relations officer, said Alle plans to operate three cash and carry stores by the end of 2014. Muchina told that Alle will supply food and non-food products under a single roof. The recently established Ethiopian Trade Enterprise (ETE), according to Muchina, initiated the creation of Alle, which is said to be an ETE brand (The Reporter).

China CNR Corporation Limited (CNR), one of the country's biggest train makers, announced that it would produce 30 train coaches for Ethiopia, a step to grasp a share in the booming African market, reported. Changchun Railway Vehicles Co. Ltd. of CNR has signed contracts with Ethiopian authorities to produce 30 25G coaches, a designed speed of 120 km per hour, according to the company. The coaches will run on the Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway, which was built in 1917 by France and is the only trunk railway line in Ethiopia (xinhuanet.com, Nov. 21).

Mining

Premier African Minerals Ltd said the Phase I exploration programme on the Danakil potash license in Ethiopia has been completed. The natural resource company with mineral projects in Africa said the 24 hole programme, operated by Danakil Potash Corp, drilled a total of 7,893 m and 1,569 samples have been submitted for assay work. Premier African Minerals holds a 42% interest in AgriMinco Corp, which has a 30% stake in the Danakil potash project through a joint venture with Danakil Potash Corp. Premier said the results from sampling will be compiled into a mineral resource estimate, expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2014, which will be followed by a full scoping study of the project. Premier African Minerals shares were up 5.9% to 1.35 pence Friday (Alliance News, Jan. 10).

A gem crystal and hydrophane opal was recently discovered in Ethiopia. Ethiopian opal was found in Gondar which was at first called desert opal but it is from a plateau in the highlands. The main field which is creating a lot of excitement now is from a field called Wello. This was found in a plateau 2500 to 3299 m high. Only the locals are allowed to mine this field and the government has supplied basic tools. This field produces a variety of crystals, brown base and even black material. Opals from this field are known as Ethiopian Opal from Wello. Ethiopian Wello opal is popular as the crystal opals are very bright and spectacular. The colors are very striking with red being common and blue quite rare which is the opposite of Australian opals. It has some magnificent patterns and brilliant colors and is called Ethiopian fire opal (WIC, Dec. 16).

Tullow Oil has said that it will stop drilling for oil reserves at the Tullule-1 wildcat well in the South Omo onshore block in Ethiopia after failing to strike oil despite reaching a 2,101 m depth. The oil drilling firm said that recorded gas in the course of drilling point to the presence of a hydrocarbon source in the region (The Star, Dec. 9).

Transport and Communication

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) signed a 1.5 bio birr Dessie-Kutaber-Tenta road upgrading project with China First Highway Engineering Co. Ltd (CFHEC). The 67.5 km long ten meter wide asphalt road upgrading project will link South Wello Zone to North Wello in the Amhara Regional State. The upgrading project includes a 24 km asphalt road built during the brief Italian invasion, which now is found in poor condition due to long years of service. The remaining 34.5 km is gravel road which will be upgraded to asphalt (WIC, Dec. 19).

Energy Supply

Ethiopia hopes to finalize the construction of its \$4.7bio hydroelectric dam project on the Nile River within three years, the director of the project said. "The implementation has been going according to schedule," the project manager, Semegnew Bekele, told, noting that the dam would be 30% complete within a few months. The Grand Renaissance Dam will allow the country generate 6,000 MW (WIC, Jan. 4).

About 96% of the solar energy project being carried out to provide solar electric energy for rural areas has been finalized, the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy said. The project will electrify 25,000 houses in the nine regional states. A total of over 150,000 people will have access to electricity through the project with a capacity of 982MW power. Rural areas in the nine regional states and far from the national grid system will benefit from the project. The installation of the home solar systems will be finalized until the end of this month. Over 22,000 home solar systems have so far been installed

across the country. The project is being carried out at a cost of 209m Birr secured from the World Bank and the coffers of the Federal Government (ENA, Dec. 23).

Expansion work on the Aluto-Langano Geothermal Power Plant was launched. The US\$30m project will upgrade the plant's generating capacity to 70MW. The Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, Alemayehu Tegenu, said, the expansion will boost the country's electricity supply from geothermal by 70MW by 2007 E.C. from the current 7 MW. The expansion project will be financed by assistance from the government of Japan, the World Bank and the government of Ethiopia. Kazuhiro Suzuki, Japan's Ambassador to Ethiopia said that Japan has provided US\$10m assistance to support the project. Located in the Rift Valley Lakes Region, the Aluto Langano Geothermal Power Plant is the first geothermal power plant in Ethiopia. The plant was established in 1998 as a pilot plant to test the geothermal resources in the area. Covering an area of about 8km², various studies have indicated that up to 100MW electric power can be produced from the Aluto steam field, which is one of the high temperature prospected area in the country (ENA, Dec. 27).

The implementation of the Tendaho Dam and Irrigation Project launched in Afar State is well in progress as 90% of the required construction materials have been provided. Project Manager Eng. Abraham Berhe told that the dam will have a capacity to develop 60,000 ha of land. The land will be developed by using 1.86 billion m³ of water harnessing the Awash River. Some 50,000 ha will be covered with sugarcane and the remaining for fodder development. The execution of the irrigation project, which has a capacity to develop 25,000 ha of land, is expected to be completed next June. Upon completion, the project is expected to create jobs for up to 60,000 citizens, Eng. Abraham said (WIC, Dec. 18).

The government's decision to break the former Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation (EEPCo) into two independent entities was made to ensure efficient service delivery, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology said. The Minister, Dr Debretsion Gebremichael, said the Corporation has split into two companies, namely, the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) and the Ethiopian Electric Service (EES). He said the government decided to dissolve the 60-year old corporation after years of study. Power Grid India has been selected to take over the management of the Ethiopian Electric Service (EES), the company which will lead the service delivery. Power Grid India has been given a two and-a-half year contract of 21m USD before tax. The management of the Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), the company which is responsible for the construction of power generating dams and sub-stations, will remain in the hands of Ethiopians. The two companies need a total of 17,480 employees, the Minister said. Activities are underway to recruit an additional 4,100 employees, while keeping the 13,372 employees of the former EEPCo, according to Debretsion (State media, Dec. 18).

Ethiopia is among the top 10 most attractive solar markets in Africa, a new market research report has revealed. The report, Solar Power Opportunities - Africa, provides a comparative framework for analyzing the potential and relative attractiveness of national-level solar markets in Africa and for assessing macro conditions, access to market, national energy policy, growth potential of renewable energy and infrastructure considerations. The top three markets based on installed solar capacity are South Africa, Senegal and Eritrea (WIC, Nov 13).

Global Trade and Development Consulting together with its Project Development Partner, Energy Ventures, both Maryland-based companies, announced on that they have been awarded the contract by the Ethiopian Ministry of Water and Energy and the Board of Directors of the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation to build, operate, and transfer three 100 MW solar sites, in the eastern region of Ethiopia. The site selection, due diligence and Feasibility Study were completed earlier this year, receiving both technical and financial approval from both the Minister of Water and Energy and EEPCo. In addition to the needed power generation capacity, a key element of this 300 MW Solar Project, is the economic development

resulting in the creation of more than 2,000 construction jobs that would inject millions of \$ into the Ethiopian economy. Ongoing plant operations would yield several hundred new jobs as well (News.Gnom.Es, Nov. 7).

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will start generating electricity next year, according to the National Coordination Office for the dam. The project is finalizing preparations to start generating 700MW electricity by next year, the Deputy Director-General of the office, Zadig Abraha, told. He said to date, 25.4% of work on the dam has been done. The project has so far created 6,000 jobs and this number is expected to double in the end. 5.2bio Birr of pledges thus far has been collected while over 10bio Birr is yet to be collected. A total of 80bio Birr is needed to complete the grand project (ERTA, Nov. 12).

Privatization

The Ethiopian Privatization and Public Enterprises Supervising Agency (PPESA) has floated a tender for the acquisition of 11 public enterprises. The Deputy Head of PPESA's Deputy Public Relations, Asebe Kebede, told the enterprises up for bid are the Ethiopian Mineral Development S.C., Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing S.C., Bahir Dar Textile SC, Kombolcha Textile SC, Hamarassa Edible Oil SC and Bekelcha Transport S.C. Moreover, Weyra Transport S.C., Caustic Soda S.C. and Artistic Printing Enterprise, Agricultural Mechanization Service Enterprise and Transport Construction Design S.C. are the enterprises offered for sale by the agency, he said. The Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing, Bahir Dar Textile and Kombolcha Textile Share companies were offered for sale for the first time, according to Asebe (WIC, Dec. 12).

Tourism

If you like your holidays to come with a big slice of adventure, you might want to take note of a new top ten from no-nonsense travel publisher Rough Guides. The holiday authority has named its best countries to visit in 2014 - a list headed by Ethiopia. According to Rough Guides, a 'boom' in small hotels and restaurants is making travelling around this culturally rich east African nation much easier, giving adventurous tourists the chance to experience 'untouched national parks, ancient cities, the world's first coffee plantations, the largest cave in Africa and the continent's greatest concentration of UNESCO sites' (Opodo News, Dec. 31).

- Agriculture, Food Aid, Drought

Input and Output

Ethiopian farmers are preparing to plant genetically modified cotton seedlings when the rainy season gets underway in June, in a move the government hopes will boost textile and garment exports. In early 2013, the Ethiopian parliament ratified a proclamation stating that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) can be imported if the environment ministry approves their compliance with bio-safety and public health guidelines. Late last year, Ethiopia's Minister of Industry Ahmed Abitew said the government was planning to use GM cotton crops as part of a strategy to boost the country's textile sector, although testing had yet to start. (Ethiopia Investor Newsletter, Jan. 30).

Ethiopia has allocated 50,000 ha of land to be leased for horticulture development, according to the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers Exporters Association (EHPEA). Despite its huge potential for the development of horticulture, the size of land developed with flower, vegetables, and fruit until 2011/2012 is 12,552 ha. However, during the past five or six years, the industry has been growing significantly. Currently, over 120 companies are engaged in the cultivation of horticulture products. Due to the prevailing investment environment, attractive incentive, by the government and cheap labor, Ethiopia has now become a center of attraction for foreign direct investment (FDI) in horticulture development. "In order to meet the increasing flow of investment in the horticulture sector, the government has identified five corridors consisting of 50,000 ha," Tewodros Zewdie, Executive Director of EHPEA told. He said these

corridors are located in Oromia, Amhara, Tigray, SNNP and Eastern region where there is huge potential of land, labor and infrastructures. Though horticulture development in Ethiopia started a decade ago, the industry has been playing a key role towards generating foreign exchange and creating labor. The sector has generated some 265m USD in 2011/12 and created million of jobs, Tewodros said. The revenue is expected to increase in the fiscal year. Flowers made up the biggest share in export value, according to the executive director. Ethiopia is the second largest supplier and exporter of flowers in Africa. Europe is the major market destination of Ethiopia's horticultural products, especially flower. But activities are underway to search other market destinations. "Efforts are being made to export Ethiopia's horticulture products to North America, Japanese and African countries' markets," Tewodros stated (WIC, Jan. 20).

A bumper harvest which would stabilize the grain market is expected this year, according to official estimates. This was indicated in a joint report issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Agriculture Tuesday. The report said there has been a dramatic increase in the production of teff, wheat, maize, sorghum and barley. Earlier, the Ethiopian Central Statistics Agency reported that a harvest of 254.2 million q is expected this year. It said this will undoubtedly stabilize the grain market (Reporter, Jan. 1).

Revenue obtained from the horticulture sector is increasing year by year, the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers and Exporters Association reported. The association's chairperson, Zelalem Mesele, told that Ethiopia obtained 266m USD during the 2011/12 year, which shows a 42m USD increase compared to the previous year. Flowers constitute the biggest share in terms of revenue enabling the country to obtain 212.56m USD, while the balance came from vegetables, fruits and herbs. The size of land developed with flowers, vegetables, fruits and herbs is also increasing. Over 12,550 ha of land was developed with flowers, vegetables, fruits and herbs during the period. The size of land developed during 2011/12 exceeded the previous year's by 6,038 ha land. The report says companies from Ecuador, the Netherlands, India and Kenya are showing interest in investing in the sector (ENA, Dec. 26).

Agricultural Investment and Finance

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) said more needs to be done to attract private investors to engage in commercial agriculture to tap into the country's huge potential. Tefera Deribew, Minister of Agriculture, said large scale commercial farmers in the country are registering 'encouraging' results but insisted more needs to be done to ensure more success. Ethiopia is touted as a nation with huge agriculture potential with diverse ecological zones suitable for various types of crops, abundant ground and surface water resources and cheap labor. According to the ministry, Ethiopia's potential arable land is estimated to be nearly 70 million ha, out of which 12 million ha have, so far, been developed. "We have identified nearly 3 million ha of arable land for potential foreign and local investors," Tefera said (WIC, Dec. 31).

The sugar projects under construction were due for completion within the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan but failed to secure the required financial resources. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has, therefore, ordered the projects to seek partnership with foreign companies and bring the construction to completion. The initial plan was to build ten new sugar projects and to upgrade three old ones. The upgrading of the three old projects is fully underway with the 640m USD loan obtained from India. The ten new ones have been unable to secure the required 75bio birr and their construction is being hampered (Reporter, Dec. 29).

The construction of the Megech Irrigation and Drinking Water Dam Project with an aggregated capital of 2.4bio Birr allocated by the government has started. Upon completion, the dam on Megech River (near Gonder town) is expected to hold 1.8 billion m³ of water. The manager of the project, Agonafir Zewde, said the dam would help develop some 17,000 ha of land using irrigation, besides securing drinking water for Gonder town for a century. The

construction of the dam that is being carried out by the Water Works Construction in Ethiopia will be 76m high and 890m long. The project has created job opportunities for more than 500 people (Fana Broadcasting Corporation (FBC), Dec. 25).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will provide a loan of US\$85m to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to finance a third phase of the Pastoral Community Development Project. The Government of Ethiopia and the World Bank will co-finance the \$218.2m project. Pastoralism relates both to an economic livelihood system that is based primarily on extensive livestock production and to the unique characteristics of communities that live in the arid and semi-arid lowlands of Ethiopia (WIC, Dec. 17).

A Saudi agricultural investor has warned about the failure of Saudi agricultural investments in Ethiopia and the liquidation of businesses due to the conditions set by the [Saudi] Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) to support and lend investors in Ethiopia. Following a recent crisis between Riyadh and Addis Ababa regarding the former's crackdown on undocumented Ethiopian workers, many Saudi investors are pulling out of Ethiopia. He revealed that some Saudi investors in Ethiopia have begun to sell their investments due to the impossible conditions set by the ADF for loans, in addition to the lack of facilities to export their produce to Saudi Arabia. The head of the Saudi Agriculture Investors Association in Ethiopia, Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Shahri, said that there are more than 400 Saudi businessmen in Ethiopia investing in the cultivation of a variety of crops, namely wheat, rice and barley. The size of Saudi investments in the agricultural sector in Ethiopia is currently estimated at \$3.47bio. Moreover, he stated that the investment environment inside Ethiopia differs from one place to another, as some areas are very weak in terms of infrastructure. In certain places, investors contributed to building roads, transportation means and bridges for farmers, since the country is riddled with rivers (AL Monitor, Dec. 10).

Gleaming Deere & Co. (DE) tractors and harvesters are sitting idle five years after Karuturi Global Ltd. (KARG) opened a farm in Ethiopia that was hailed as the poster child of the country's plan to triple food exports by 2015. 80% of the Bangalore based company's land in the southwestern Gambella region is on a flood plain, meaning its 100,000 ha concession is inundated by the Baro River for as much as seven months of the year, according to Managing Director Ramakrishna Karuturi. The company was unaware of the extent of the flooding when it leased the land, he said. "Karuturi, like many other large-scale investors, underestimated the complexity of opening land for large-scale commercial agriculture," Philipp Baumgarther, a researcher at the Bonn, Germany based Center for Development Research who wrote a doctoral thesis on agriculture in Gambella, said in a Nov. 20 response to e-mailed questions. Karuturi, the world's biggest rose grower, was one of the first companies to take advantage of a government plan to lease 3.3 million ha of farmland to private investors. Growing food on the unutilized land would help the Horn of Africa country address shortages that forces it to seek aid from international donor every year, former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said at the time (Bloomberg News, Nov. 25).

The Saudi Star project of Sheik Mohamed Al-Amoudi is facing serious financial crisis and has laid off over 2,000 workers. The company, engaged in agricultural work in Gambella region, has been unable to continue its work due to serious financial constraints. The company began work five years ago over an area of 10,000 ha. The project lies close to the Al-Wero Dam constructed during the Derg rule. The dam is capable of providing water for the company (Reporter, Nov. 10).

Disclosure of a violent attack on a tea plantation leased by Indian-owned Verdanta Harvest Plc, a subsidiary of the Noida-based Lucky Group, has renewed concerns over Ethiopia's policy of leasing out large tracts of land to international investors. On Oct. 20, unidentified individuals destroyed buildings and machinery worth approximately \$140,000, according to Verdanta officials. Media

reported that locals set the plantation on fire "on account of destroying the rich forest resources", a claim denied by the company. Community leaders in Gambella did not comment on the attack, but rights groups have warned that a policy of leasing out 42% of Gambella's land and resettling over 30,000 agro-pastoral communities is the likely cause of the unrest (The Hindu, Nov. 5).

Other Issues

World Vision Ethiopia and the World Agro Forestry Center launched a 15m USD Food and Water Security Project aimed at improving the livelihood of the community. World Vision Ethiopia Director Margaret Schuler said that the five-year project will be implemented by focusing on the most vulnerable communities of Tigray and Rift Valley areas. Schuler said the project would focus on semi-arid regions of Ethiopia to transfer rural households from subsistence farming to sustainable rural development by increasing food and security and better access to markets (ENA, Jan. 15).

USAID said the Bishoftu Farm Service Center (FSCs), the first of six such centers to provide training to rural entrepreneurs, to create Ethiopian-owned retail farm supply and service centers was opened. According to USAID, these private, retail supply and farm service businesses will serve as innovative models. In addition to Bishoftu, FSCs will be opened in Ambo, Dodola, Fiche, Nekemte and Shashemane towns in Oromia State. In addition to highly trained staff that provide services and training at each location, the FSCs provide a complete range of supplies such as quality seeds, fertilizer, plant protection products, and veterinary products; information; and marketing links for Ethiopian smallholders, allowing them to make the step from subsistence to commercial production (ENA, Dec. 17).

- Social, Cultural and Political Aspects

Internal Conflicts

Kenyan police are investigating alleged abduction of two top officials of Ethiopia's Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) from outside a popular restaurant in Upper Hill, Nairobi. The two who were identified as Mr. Sulub Ahmed and Ali Hussein were members of the ONLF negotiation team that was in Nairobi for a proposed third round of talks. ONLF officials who asked not to be named claimed security agencies from Ethiopia and Kenya were involved in the kidnapping. They had been invited for a lunch date at a restaurant near TSC headquarters on Sunday afternoon when they were abducted by men who were in three waiting cars. The ONLF officials who spoke in Nairobi said the two officials were invited by the Kenyan government for peace negotiations. "We do not know the fate of our officials but we know they were taken to Ethiopia," said an official who asked not to be named. He asked Kenya, which took the responsibility to be a neutral venue, and as a facilitator to investigate fully the incident and request the Ethiopian government to return the abductees (Standard Digital, Jan. 29).

Members of the Arena Tigray Party in Tigray were beaten, arrested and tortured as they were came out for a public meeting in Adigrat. The party had set a program to promote its agenda to the people of Adigrat but this was met with beatings by the police. A founding member of TPLF who is now in the opposition, Ato Assegid Gebre Selassie, and other leading members of Arena Tigray Party, including Ato Ambo Gebre Selassie and Ato Abreha Desta, have been put under arrest (Yegna Press, Jan. 28).

Three people have died and others were injured following clashes between Borena and Guji tribes on the border between Ethiopia and Kenya. This was reported by the All-Ethiopia Unity Organization (AEUO). The Ministry of Federal Affairs admitted that the clashes had indeed taken place and that four people were killed and five injured. AEUO said over 1,000 people were made homeless, over 800 goats were stolen and a number of houses destroyed (Sendek, Jan. 22).

Forty-five out of 69 supporters of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) who had been on trial for the past few years have been sentenced

to 2 to 3 years in prison. The defendants have been accused of trying to explode bombs at various places, of robbing the Fincha sugar factory and churches, recruiting OLF members as well as attempting to dismember Oromia from Ethiopia by force. The court also found them guilty of conspiring with the Somalia and Eritrean governments which gave them the required military training. They were also found guilty of making money transfers at home and abroad to the OLF, which the government has labeled as a terrorist organization (Sendek, Jan. 8).

A number of prisoners including journalist Woubishet Taye are suffering seriously because of lack of medical attention. Woubishet had been moved from Zway Prison to Addis Ababa Prison so that he could get better medical treatment. But he has now been moved back to Zway without getting the required medical care. His relatives have been greatly inconvenienced trying to reach him in Zway. Other prisoners, including Ato Bekele Gerba and Ato Abebe Hailemichael, are also ill and are not receiving medical attention. The prisons are accused of involvement in terrorist activities (Yegna Press, Dec. 24).

Ethiopian police have arrested five more people suspected of plotting the suicide bombings during Ethiopia's World Cup qualifying match against Nigeria in October, security officials said.

The court has set free the wife of former Civil Service Minister Juneidi Sado and ten others who had been accused of involvement in terrorism. The same court is still holding the case of 18 people who have been told to defend themselves against terrorist charges. Members of two organizations known as the Alber Development and Cooperation Association and Nemmi Welfare Association have also been freed of the charges. The people and organizations had been charged with helping terrorist elements who had undergone special training in Arab countries to carry out destructive anti-Ethiopian activities (Addis Admas, Dec. 14).

The vice chairman of the national council of Semayawi Party, Ato Yeshiwass Assefa, and member of the council, Ato Simeneh Tsehay, was to appear before the Fourth First Instance Court in Addis Ababa. The two men were accused of creating violent disturbances two months ago as the police tried to arrest Ato Girma Seifu, opposition MP. The two men were immediately arrested but were later released on bail. The authorities arrested them again and formal charges were established against them (Sendek, Nov. 27).

4 Ethiopians were killed in a bomb blast on a bus near the Sudanese border, the information minister said, as security forces remain on high alert following attack warnings. The blast occurred in Ethiopia's remote Benishangul region. Ethiopia has put its police and security forces on heightened alert after receiving strong evidence that Somalia's Islamist al Shabaab group is planning attacks in the country, officials said (AFP, Nov. 7).

Foreign Relations-General

The controversial Ethio-Sudanese border conflict is still giving rise to serious concern among Ethiopians. The issue has become a cause for renewed debate among Ethiopians following the recent visit to Khartoum by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. Some Sudanese media sources have expressed hope that the border conflict could find settlement shortly. Ethiopians at all levels are expressing concern that the current government is trying to give away Ethiopia's land to Sudan (Sendek, Jan. 15).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said the nation is exerting concerted efforts to evacuate its citizens, estimated to be over 15,000, from South Sudan. MoFA Spokesperson, Ambassador Dina Mufti, said as fears rise due to war in that country, Ethiopia has began evacuating its citizens. More than 900 Ethiopians have been transported back home until this morning (Dec. 31) as fighting continues between the two sides, he said (WIC, Dec. 31).

A large number of Ethiopians living in the war-torn South Sudanese territory of Unity State are caught in the conflict between the warring parties of South Sudan. Some Ethiopians told newsmen that they are forced to take refuge with their construction machinery. About six of the Ethiopians who are working for a construction project

there said two of their fellow workers have been killed while three others sustained serious injuries. It is not yet clear how many Ethiopians have died in the country so far but VOA reported this week that as many as thirty Ethiopians lost their lives since the outbreak of the war (Yegna Press, Dec. 31).

As fears rise of a possible civil war in South Sudan, Ethiopia said it has begun evacuating hundreds of its citizens from conflict-hit regions of the country. Ethiopia's ministry of foreign affairs said that over 650 Ethiopians have been transported back home as fierce fighting between government forces and rebels led by sacked vice president Riek Machar continues in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile states. The spokesperson of the foreign affairs ministry, Dina Mufti, told reporters that the Ethiopians were evacuated from Nasir town of Upper Nile state and transported to bordering Gambella region of Ethiopia, where they are being sheltered temporarily. Mufti said 300 Ethiopians have also been flown from Bor, the capital of Jonglei state, to Juba, South Sudan's capital, on UN helicopters. The capital has been relatively stable for over a week, after fighting with the army began on 15 Dec. (Sudan Tribune, Dec. 29).

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn met with South Sudanese President Salva Kiir. A senior government official warned that Riek Machar, the former vice president who now allegedly commands renegade forces in the states of Unity and Upper Nile, had to renounce rebellion before the government could negotiate with him. Michael Makuei Leuth, South Sudan's information minister, said the government has not yet established formal contact with Machar. It was not possible to reach Machar, as his known phone numbers were switched off (AP, Dec. 26).

A delegation of the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) led by Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs and current Chairman of IGAD, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, traveled to South Sudan. The visit is aimed at seeking ways of ending days of fighting in South Sudan (WIC, Dec. 20). - African mediators say they have had "productive" talks with South Sudan's President Salva Kiir as they try to stop days of clashes spreading. Heading the delegation, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom said the talks would continue. At least 500 people are believed to have died since last weekend, when President Kiir accused his ex-deputy Riek Machar of a failed coup (BBC, Dec. 20).

Foreign Relations-Great Renaissance Dam

The Egyptian Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Muhammad al Din Allam has revealed that in light of the inability to traverse the disagreement with Ethiopia, Egypt has decided to call for the intervention of international bodies to settle their winding dispute. On Jan. 4, 2014, water ministers and experts from Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt met in Khartoum in an attempt to find a solution to the longstanding dispute over the construction of Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam on the Nile. Although officials had expressed optimism that a solution, which satisfied all the parties involved in the dispute, was in sight shortly after the meeting, hopes of a quick resolution to the impasse were dashed when Egyptian authorities revealed that they are not planning to attend the next meeting between ministers from the three nations in Khartoum next month. - The Egyptian Irrigation and Water Resources Minister has disclosed that Egypt will officially lodge a complaint with the United Nations Security Council and other relevant international authorities over the GERD. Ethiopian and Egyptian authorities have been at loggerheads over the dam since its constructors began diverting water from the Blue Nile as part of the dam's construction in 2011. Besides concerns over the dam's impact on the water supply of Egypt, Egyptian officials have also raised alarm that studies into the impact of the dam on the environment have been insufficient, given its size. Meanwhile, the three nations have not been able to agree on the composition of a committee to effect the recommendations of a panel of international experts assigned to study the dam last year. (Zegabi, Jan. 21).

The new Egyptian constitution forbids Ethiopia to use Nile waters as it pleases. The new Egyptian constitution carries several articles on

the use of the Nile waters. It says the government will provide support for research work conducted on the Nile especially concerning pollution. Some of the articles contradict the principle followed by Ethiopia and other riparian countries on the use of the Nile. Ethiopian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dina Mufti said a country's constitution should not be formulated in a way that hurts the interest of other countries. Egypt says the use of the Nile waters must be governed by existing or former colonial agreements while Ethiopia and other riparian countries declare former colonial treaties are outdated and unbinding (Addis Admas, Jan. 18).

Ethiopia rejected a proposal that would guarantee Egypt the rights to most of the Nile River's water, as disagreements cast doubt over future talks about Africa's biggest hydro power project. The 6,000 MW Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on Ethiopia's Blue Nile River, set to be completed in 2017, has raised concern in Cairo that it will reduce the flow of the Nile, which provides almost all of Egypt's water. The Blue Nile is the main tributary of the Nile (Bloomberg News, Jan. 7).

Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan failed to reach an agreement in the tripartite negotiations regarding the construction of the Ethiopian Grand Renaissance dam. Ethiopia has refused to discuss the terms of "confidence-building measures", which Egyptian officials say must be changed in order to avoid reduction of Egypt's Nile river water share. Also, Ethiopia insisted on special conditions to an international conflict-resolution committee that Egypt believes "would deplete it from its original purpose of being an impartial moderator between the three countries," according to a statement released by Egyptian authorities (ENA, Jan. 5).

Sudan's support to Ethiopia's controversial dam project is not politically driven, Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia said. "We fully support the project because it benefits Sudan," Ambassador Abdul Rahman Sir-al-Katim told reporters in Addis Ababa, referring to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), which is being built just 30km away from the Sudanese border. The Sudanese diplomat said his country will continue to extend the necessary support to the multi-billion dollar project as long as Khartoum remains convinced that the project is beneficial to Sudan, Ethiopia and Egypt (Sudan Tribun, Dec. 13).

Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan agreed to form a committee within a month to oversee a regional hydrological study of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Ethiopia's Water and Energy Ministry said. The panel will comprise four representatives from each country who will select consultants, review their findings and submit a final report to each country's government, Fekahmed Negash, head of the ministry's Boundary and Transboundary River Affairs Directorate (Bloomberg News, Dec. 10).

Sudan, Egypt and Ethiopia on Monday reiterated their commitment to joint coordination and constructive dialogue to reach consensus on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in accordance with the recommendations of the International Panel of Experts presented in May. However, the water ministers of Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia failed to agree on the formation of the Renaissance Dam's supervisory committee which was recommended by the Panel. But they did agree to hold intensive consultations to resolve their differences prior to their next meeting scheduled for Dec. 8, 2013 (WIC, Nov. 8).

Emigrant Workers

Ethiopia has repatriated over 136,000 citizens from Saudi Arabia, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). MoFA Spokesperson, Ambassador Dina Mufti, told local journalists that the arrivals are expected to increase in the future. According to him, efforts are underway to repatriate undocumented Ethiopians living far from major cities of Saudi Arabia. Moreover, the government has been doing all it can to rehabilitate the returnees (WIC, Dec. 19).

The total number of Ethiopians deported from Saudi Arabia over the past few weeks reached 115,465, according to the International Migration Organization Ethiopia office (IOM) update. "As of 8 Dec. 2013, 72,780 men, 37,092 women and 5,593 children have arrived.

Out of these, IOM has provided direct assistance to 104,087 migrants." (New Business Ethiopia, Dec. 10).

Ethiopia has flown home over 50,000 citizens from Saudi Arabia after a crackdown against illegal immigrants, the foreign ministry said. Foreign ministry spokesman Dina Mufti told the final total once the mass airlift ends is now expected to be around 80,000. Ethiopia started repatriating citizens living illegally in Saudi Arabia after a seven-month amnesty period to formalize their status expired on Nov. 4, sparking violent protests between Saudi police and Ethiopian migrants preparing to leave the country. The Ethiopian government said three of its citizens were killed in clashes. Dina said the government is spending \$2.6m on the repatriation program to bring citizens home, the majority women. Ethiopia has said relations with Saudi Arabia remain "sisterly", with Dina saying the government's main priority was to bring citizens home (WIC, Nov. 27).

Saudi security forces on Nov. 9 clashed with thousands of migrant workers protesting a new labor law. Two people were killed and nearly 70 others injured after police opened fire to disperse protesters in the capital Riyadh. More than 500 protesters were also detained. The Ethiopian man was killed during another crackdown, prompting the Ethiopian government to announce efforts to bring home its citizens (Diretube, Nov. 12).

About 23,000 Ethiopians have surrendered to Saudi authorities since a clampdown on illegal migrant workers began in the oil-rich kingdom last week, officials have said. The clampdown has led to clashes in the capital, Riyadh, with at least five people killed. Saudi authorities say they are trying to reduce the 12% unemployment rate among native Saudis. An estimated nine million migrant workers are in Saudi Arabia. They are said to make up more than half the workforce, filling manual, clerical and service jobs (BBC, Nov. 14).

Jeddah police has arrested 20 Ethiopians for instigating and leading a mob of a large number of expatriates of different nationalities at Jeddah's King Fahd Road in Al-Sharafya district. Police said the subjects provoked illegal expatriates to lay a siege to the Deportation Center (Arab News, Nov. 14).

Less than 48 hours after the Riyadh clashes in which three people were killed and 68 injured, two groups of illegals were involved in a brutal brawl in Jeddah's Al-Aziziya neighborhood early on Nov 11. Police rushed to the scene and broke up the brawl between Ethiopians and Chadians and arrested 57 people. The brawl left residents panicky as those involved in fighting started damaging private property. More than 14 cars were damaged during the violence. The Head of Jeddah Police Gen. Abdullah Al-Qahtani sent a large police contingent to the neighborhood to arrest the violators and maintain peace (Saudi Gazette, Nov. 11).

Anti-Corruption

The former president of Benishangul-Gumuz regional state, Ato Yaregal Aysheshum, and five of his accomplices have been sentenced to 6-15 years in prison and were fined 2000-60,000 Birr for abusing power during their term in office. The defendants were put on trial at the request of the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and they have beendefending themselves in the last two years. The Lideta branch of the Federal High Court found the men guilty of using their office to embezzle public money and enrich themselves illegally (Reporter, Jan. 12).

Former intelligence chief Woldeselassie Woldemichael on Dec. 16 submitted written objections to prosecutors' charges of corruption. Woldeselassie, formerly head of Internal Intelligence and Security Services, is currently facing abuse of power charges. At a hearing, attorney Meressa Fisseha, lawyer of Woldeselassie and two other co-defendants, submitted to court a five-page objection to the charges instituted by prosecutors of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (FEACC). Prosecutors allege that Woldeselassie used his official position to influence the printing and sale of a book titled 'Terrorism in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa' written by him (WIC, Dec. 16).

The Federal High Court was to pass a ruling on whether it has jurisdiction to try Melaku Fenta whose ministerial rank has become a point of contention. Melaku's former position as director-general of the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA) with the rank of minister has led the defense team to challenge the High Court's jurisdiction (WIC, Nov. 18).

History and Culture

Angelina Jolie is executive producing the Ethiopian film Difret. The actress described the film, the bigscreen debut from director Zeresenay Berhane Mehari, as "a strong moment for art in Ethiopia". Difret, which was shot in Ethiopia, will have its world premiere in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition category at the Sundance Film Festival on Jan. 18. The film is the story of a young Ethiopian girl who challenges the tradition of "teleta", the practice of abduction in marriage, usually of young girls. - The Oscar-winning actress, who adopted daughter Zahara, nine, from Ethiopia, said "It is inspiring to see such an important story so beautifully illustrated with such creative talent". Angelia is currently directing Unbroken and previously directed In The Land Of Blood And Honey, while her producing credits include Maleficent.

According to a Dec. 12 news release from Case Western Reserve University, two teams of researchers have discovered a new species of fossil horse from 4.4 million-year-old fossil-rich deposits in Ethiopia. The horse, dubbed *Eurygnathohippus woldegabrieli*, is approximately the same size as a small zebra, had three-toed hooves, and lived on the grasslands and shrubby forests in Ethiopia's Afar region. The newly-discovered species is named for geologist Giday WoldeGabriel, who earned his PhD at Case Western Reserve in 1987. The researchers detailed their findings in the November issue of the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (Science Recorder, Dec. 12).

- Health

Ethiopia and Italy on Jan 27 signed a grant agreement amounting to 9.52m USD to support health care program to achieve the MDG in health. The finance will be used for the implementation of the MDG Fund 2013-15 initiative. The overall objective of the project is to meet the MDG goals in relation to health, namely reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Ethiopia has already achieved one of the goals under MDG 4, which is to reduce maternal mortality by two-third by 2015 (WIC, Jan. 30).

The University of Gondar is constructing a 1,000-bed referral hospital, expected to be inaugurated next June, at a cost of over 350m birr. Upon completion, it will benefit over five million people in Gondar town and its environs, the university's President Prof. Mengesha Admasu said. Prof. Mengesha said that apart from providing services for inpatients and outpatients, the university plans to open, among others, standard eye care and international fistula treatment and training centers. The construction of the referral hospital is being undertaken with the joint efforts of various bodies - a four-storey building by the government and a five-storey by Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Ali Al-Amoudi and US government support. The construction of the hospital has created job opportunities for over 4,000 citizens. The Gondar Public Health College and Training Center was established in 1954 to produce middle level health professionals (The Ethiopian Herald, Jan. 12).

A new outpatient annex constructed at the Dil Chora Hospital in Dire Dawa City Administration at a cost of 3m USD was inaugurated in the presence of high level officials, USAID said. The US President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) provided fund for the construction of this new integrated services facility (State media, Dec. 20).

- Human Rights

Freedom of Press

Eskinder Nega, an Ethiopian publisher, journalist and blogger who is serving an 18-year jail sentence under anti-terror legislation, has been awarded the 2014 Golden Pen of Freedom, the annual press freedom prize of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers. Mr. Nega was arrested on Sep. 14, 2011 after publishing an article criticizing his government's use of the 2009 Anti-Terror Proclamation to jail and silence critics, including Ethiopian actor and activist Debebe Eshetu. He was sentenced on 23 Jan. 2012 and denounced as belonging to a terrorist organization (Tadias Magazine, Jan. 28).

Ethiopia's use of sweeping anti-terrorism law to imprison journalists and other legislative restrictions are hindering the development of free and independent media in Africa's second largest country, according to a report. Dozens of journalists and political activists have been arrested or sentenced under the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation of 2009, including five journalists who are serving prison sentences and who at times have been denied access to visitors and legal counsel. The report, "Press Freedom in Ethiopia", is based on a mission to the country carried out in November by IPI and the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) (International Press Institute (IPI), Jan. 13).

The Union of Ethiopian National Journalists has protested against the arrest of journalist Berhanu Assefa who allegedly committed error in a news report on the Southern Region. The union demanded in immediate and unconditional release of the journalist. It accused the regional police of securing an illegal court warrant to come to Addis Ababa to detain the journalist. The union threatened to do everything possible to deploy other journalists to the Southern Region and report on the growing corruption in the region. It said the regional administration is afraid that journalists will unmask the state of corruption in the region. The International Federation of

Journalists (IFJ) had also earlier condemned the arrest of the journalist as unacceptable (Sendek, Jan. 8).

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) says Eritrea, Ethiopia and Egypt have the highest number of imprisoned journalists on the African continent. In Ethiopia, seven of the 34 journalists are in jail. But the government here insists these reporters are imprisoned for violations of anti-terrorism laws, not because of their reporting. Global rights groups, including Amnesty International, have been critical of these laws in Ethiopia and elsewhere, noting they are often misused to silence the media. In Eritrea, 22 journalists are in prison; none of them were charged or brought before a court.

Ethiopian police have arrested without charge two editors of the leading independent Amharic weekly Ethio-Mihdar, according to local journalists. Police in the town of Legetafo, northeast of the capital Addis Ababa, on Nov. 4 arrested Getachew Worku in connection with a story published in October alleging corruption in the town administration, according to Muluken Tesfaw, a reporter with the paper. On Nov. 2, police arrested Million Dagneu, the general manager of the newspaper said Muluken and local journalists. Million remains in custody without charge, Muluken said (CPJ, Nov.4).

Other Issues

A global women's rights and advocacy group, Safe World for Women, has put up an online petition for the immediate release of jailed award-winning Ethiopian journalist with breast tumor, Re'eyot Alemu. Ms. Alemu, 34, who is also a teacher, was jailed under the nebulous Ethiopian anti-terrorism law for her criticism of the intolerant government in Addis Ababa. On June 21, 2011, she was arrested from the school where she teaches and kept in an undisclosed location (AllAfrica.com, Jan. 13).

Deutsch-Äthiopischer Verein e.V. - German Ethiopian Association

Äthiopien-Seminar am 28. und 29.3.2014 und Mitgliederversammlung am 30.3.2014

in der

Jugendherberge Kassel, Schenkendorfstr. 18, 34199 Kassel, Tel.: 0561- 77 64 55, Fax: 0561- 77 68 32

Email: kassel@djh-hessen.de, www.djh-hessen.de/jh/jugendherberge-kassel/index.php

Weitere Infos: <http://www.deutsch-aethiopischer-verein.de>, E-mail: vorstand@deutsch-aethiopischer-verein.de

Freitag, 28.03.2014 ab 19:30 Uhr: Bericht von Herrn Günther Quentin über die erste Öko-Schule in Konso
Informationsaustausch

Samstag, 29.03.2014 ab 9:00 Uhr:

General overview about forestry in Ethiopia and economic value of forestry in Ethiopia

Tefera Belay M.Sc.- PhD Student - Dresden University of Technology - International Forestry and Forest Products

Local forest governance in Ethiopia: Between legal pluralism and livelihood realities

Dr. Till Stellmacher, Senior Researcher - Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn

Verbreitung einheimischer Bäume und deren Folgen für Menschen und Umwelt. Information über die Aktivitäten der schweizerischen Stiftung Green Ethiopia.

Kurt Pfister, Präsident der Stiftung Green Ethiopia - Schweiz

Bericht über eine Reise im Februar 2014 zu den kleinen Völkern im Südwesten Äthopiens

Helmut Falkenstörfer, Entwicklungspolitischer Publizist und Reiseleiter

18:30 Uhr: äthiopisches Abendessen / Informationsaustausch

Sonntag, 30.03.2014 ab 9:00 Uhr: Mitgliederversammlung des DÄV e.V.