

Project Update: August 2016

During a 4-week visit in July and August 2016, Cara visited Addis Ababa University and connected with a Master's student, Girma Nigussie, who is doing his research on land use change in Guassa as well. He agreed to act as a translator for Cara during this project. They then travelled together to MGCCA to get to know the people and the landscape. They spoke with various members of each kebele, gathering their opinions on the major challenges of managing MGCCA and the changes taking place there. They explained the type of research they would like to do there, and received a warm welcome from the communities and local policy makers. They made plans to return in October and November 2016 to conduct the participatory mapping exercises and an envisioning workshop to plan future research in the area that will fulfil community needs.



Left: Meetings with community members took a variety of forms, including large open gatherings, small groups, and individual discussions. Right: Girma (centre) kept up great spirits despite the freezing rain and hail that occurred throughout our visit!