

## Project Update: November 2017

*Boswellia papyrifera* tree species has several ecological, economic and social benefits for the local communities in Ethiopia. However, its populations have been declining since long time due to different factors. This project was therefore developed to study its current population status, prioritisation the factors affecting its conservation and their solutions by involving local communities in two districts of Ethiopia. To study the current population status of the tree, we used 20 sample plots from each study district. Besides, to prioritise the current factors affecting conservation of the tree and their solutions, 50 local community members from each of the study district were interviewed. From our plot survey, the tree species is with zero regeneration and absence of its small trees (DBH < 15cm). This shows us the tree is at high risk for extinction. The key reasons for this, the respondents prioritised as free animal grazing, agriculture expansion and lack of training on conservation of the tree. The respondents also prioritized the solutions for better regeneration and conservation of the tree as introducing area enclosures, soil and water conservation activities, train local communities on conservation of the tree and assist natural regeneration of the tree using different techniques. In the coming days, we will train to the local community, governmental experts and other relevant stakeholders about outcomes of this project in order to improve their awareness on current status of the tree species and its conservation interventions.



Diameter, regeneration and height measurements of *Boswellia papyrifera* trees species.



Interview with local community regarding the factors affecting conservation of *Boswellia papyrifera* tree species and its solutions.



The current over tapping and agricultural expansions on the *Boswellia papyrifera* forests in the study districts.