Project Update: November 2022

1. Advancing wetland and river buffer area restoration capacity

Before collecting seeds, a team of experts assessed multipurpose and native tree species potentially use for restoration and socio-cultural in southwestern Ethiopia where the remnant natural forest located.

Accordingly, we have collected environmentally friendly tree seeds from different native species to raise seedlings and distribute them freely to the community for the restoration of degraded river banks and catchment. We have distributed over 10,000 seedlings including some avocado seedlings to the local community free of charge.

Besides, the project has provided training in small-scale nursery operation to enable them to produce health seedlings at a reasonable price and contributing to restoration, carbon sequestration among others. In addition, village development agents have assisted the community in planting site preparation, seedling transporting, planting, and management.

2. Assisting the development of community based protected area

The project provided training for selected community members from different areas on community-based conservation to assist them in making conservation decisions and facilitates community-based conservation works. The participants raised the training provide them with vital information to work on community-based biodiversity conservation in human dominated landscapes outside of national parks and others protected areas. Also, they aspire to apply the knowledge and experiences obtained from the training to protect small wetland ecosystems in their village to ensure sustainable ecosystem services.

3. Initiating the establishment of Wetland Resource Management Platform

Sensitization workshop was conducted with key local stakeholders on the importance of wetland ecosystems. In this event stakeholders discussed the problems of wetland ecosystem degradation and the importance of conserving the ecosystem. They set a local platform to discuss conservation problems, set common goals and facilitate conservation efforts in the community. After the training the members of this platform facilitated tree planting campaign in the buffer areas of wetland during the green legacy tree planting campaign.

4. Scale-up nature club

We have evaluated the performance of an existing nature club in school together with school principals and identified strengths and weaknesses. The strengths include the active participation of club members in environmental matters in their school and community. The lack of resources to facilitate members' participation beyond school is considered as the main limitation of clubs. To address such limitations the school and club members plan to work with stakeholders to generate income to be used for environmental and nature conservation matters. Based on this experience and lessons learned, the project has assisted schools in how to run successful nature or environmental conservation clubs through visiting and arranging school workshops.