

### Project Update: August 2014

The project has now officially started with a 10-day fieldtrip within the forest of Afalo kebele, Gera woreda, Ethiopia. Several places within the Gera forest were visited and controlled for their potential biodiversity. The rainy season is now at full strength making it not always easy to sample. However, amphibians were very active with this weather. We managed to identify one of the amphibians found in a marshy riverside in a forest clearing as *Afrixalus clarkei*. This is an endangered species under the IUCN red list and was not yet known for our area. Furthermore, we estimated the marsh to be a large breeding area for this species with >200 calling males and several females were photographed. This is rather exceptional as apparently, only one female of this species was found up to now (Largen & Spawls, 2001).

We also started the interviews in the first village (Afalo). This immediately gave some interesting insights which can be used to increase forest protection but also for future projects. Chameleons, for example, are actively killed because they bring bad luck and are considered dangerous. Hopefully, more interviews will yield similar interesting results on which we can start building conservation efforts.



*Afrixalus clarkei* (Clarke's banana frog) male calling from marshy area



Picture of part of the team at one of the study areas in Belete-Gera forest