Evaluating Social and environmental outcomes of Community Based conservation Programs: Case of Controlled hunting areas in the Bale Mountains, Ethiopia

Bethlehem Astella:

International Symposium at Colorado State University
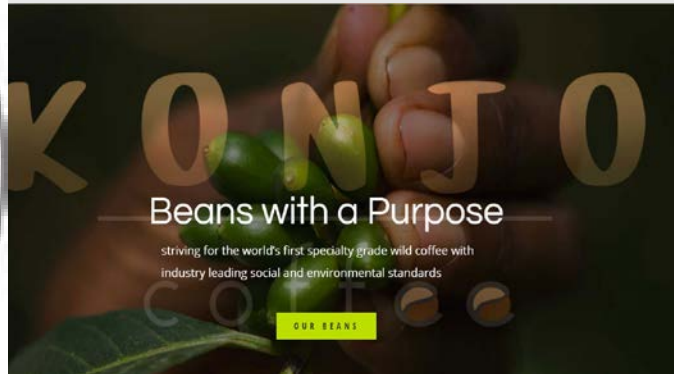
Bale Mountains : *One Park, Many Worlds*

Conservation Threats and Efforts

- Human Population Pressure
- Overgrazing
- Anthropogenic forest fires
- Agricultural and Settlement expansions
- Conflicts : HWC, local people vs conservation organizations

Our Journey

Phase1: Begun, May 2018 with a preliminary field trip to the Bale Mountains

- To learn about the site, build relationships in the Bale Mountains.

Case of Controlled Hunting Programs

Alternative conservation model along the buffer zone of Bale Mountains National Park

Model A: Conservation Incentives program

Model B:Community Power sharing program

Gap identified: Limited evaluation of equity

Phase 2: Developing locally grounded equity indicators

15 focus group discussions in 4 communities with different groups:

Youth

Elders

Women

Community Leaders

Results

◦ Benefits flow to older males and leaders

◦ Women and youth are the least likely to perceive distribution of benefits as fair compensations losses- *women and youth are disproportionately reliant on the forest and other natural resources*

◦ Women and youth are also the least likely to participate in meetings and decisions.

Phase3: Trainings for Household survey Data Collection

- Shared interim results: December 2019
- Conducted 200 household surveys : December 2019
- Planned Community Workshops: Fall 2020

Lessons Learnt

- Value of meaningful relationships and trust
- Several unforeseeable challenges
- Commitment and adaptability to sustain a collaborative process

THANK YOU !!!

We would also like to thank:

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- Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority
- Frankfurt Zoological Society
- Dr Kelly Jones and Dr Paul Evangelista