First small grant agreement in Ethiopia under the CEPF Eastern Afromontane Hotspot investment!

Title

Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS), coordinator of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Eastern Afromontane Hotspot Programme in Ethiopia, signed the first small grant agreement with God for People Relief and Development Organisation (GPRDO), a local NGO involved in conservation activities in Sheka Zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Ethiopia. CEPF is funding GPRDO, a sub-grantee to EWNHS, USD 20,000.00 to implement the project ?*Scaling up alternative livelihoods income sources focused forest development and protection approaches in Bechi Peasant Association, Yeki Woreda, Sheka Zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Ethiopia*?.

The project site is located in Western part of Kaffa and Yayu Biosphere Reserves Corridors, one of the focus areas of CEPF- Eastern Afromontane Hotspot Programme in Ethiopia. The main objectives of the project include conservation and development of remnant indigenous tree forests, creation of alternative livelihoods income through Non-Timber-Forest-Products, awareness creation among people for these mentioned issues and collaboration, knowledge sharing and networking with like-minded development practitioners.

Ato Seraleign Abera, Chief Executive, GPRDO and Ato Mengistu Wondafrash, Executive Director, EWNHS, signed the grant agreement on the 25th of November 2013 at the office of EWNHS, Addis Ababa. Also in the pipeline are Bahir Dar University and MELCA- Ethiopia that will sign grant agreements very shortly to execute projects in Lake Tana and Western Ethiopian Afromontane forest corridor (Kafa-Yayu corridor).

?The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a joint initiative of l?Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) the Government of Japan, the MachArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental Goal is to ensure civil Society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.?

?BirdLife International, International for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS) are the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) investment in the Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot, enabling civil society participation in biodiversity conservation where it matters most?.

Story by EWNHS, Ethiopia