

#### 4. Why WaBuB-PFM?

The local people have been and will be the main actors in managing and/or deciding the future of forest resources in the Belete-Gera RFFPA. They have been traditionally collecting Non-Timber Forest Products such as coffee, honey and spices growing under the forest canopy. However, there was no legal mechanism that would encourage participation of local communities in managing forest resources and sharing benefits from the resources.

Compared to other forest areas of the country, it has been noted that the Belete-Gera RFFPA has been kept in a better condition. The secret behind appears to be that people living in and around the area are being benefited from the forests, especially harvest of wild coffee and honey. People have traditionally kept the forests in order to generate better income than converting them into agricultural lands.

In light of rapid destruction of forest areas including some areas of the Belete-Gera RFFPA, the regional government of Oromia has adopted a participatory forest management strategy to safeguard the remaining forests from depletion and issued a new proclamation to foster the strategy by recognizing traditional forest resource use rights of local communities.

#### 5. Participatory Forest Management Project in Belete-Gera RFFPA.

This initiative to establish WaBuB PFM for Belete-Gera RFFPA has begun since in September 2003 under a bilateral agreement between Oromia Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau (OARDB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The second phase of the project is expected to last for four years until 2010.

#### 6. Eligibility of being a Member of WaBuB

To become a WaBuB member is voluntary basis.

Registering members are basically family heads who have customary rights to use forest products of the Belete-Gera RFFPA.

The WaBuB members are to be recognized by communities and the Government.

Violation of WaBuB rules may cause deprivation of WaBuB membership.

## WaBuB PFM in Belete-Gera Regional Forest Priority Area



### Next Village Meeting

*Date:*

*Venue:*



### *1. What is WaBuB?*

WaBuB is an abbreviation for ‘Waldaa Bulchiinsa Bosonaa’ in afaan Oromo, meaning “Forest Management Association.” WaBuB is a legally recognized institution, representing forest users. The process of organizing WaBuB starts with consensus building among forest users. After a series of negotiations and agreements, forest users and the government agree on the principals of Participatory Forest Management, and representative and District ARDO sign a legal contract, Forest Management Agreement (FMA). Thereby, the members of WaBuB are legally recognized to live within the Belete-Gera Regional Forest Priority Area (RFPA), and granted exclusive rights to use non-timber forest products within a demarcated forest area of RFPA. In return, WaBuB members are obliged to manage the forests sustainably. WaBuB is a participatory forest management system, which appreciates the local wisdom of traditional practices in forest resources utilization and management. WaBuB members would also be benefited from livelihood support programs including organic coffee and fair-trade certificates and improved agriculture. It is planned that each WaBuB would be supported to acquire a cooperative status in order to establish Pro-WaBuB Business partnership with the private sectors and NGOs.

### *2. Benefits and Rights of WaBuB Members*

WaBuB members will have the following benefits and rights, which are included in FMA:

- Rights to live in the RFPA.
- Right to use non-timber forest products.
- Organic coffee and fair trade certificates.
- Training on improved agriculture.
- Rights to continue management of traditional coffee and honey production.
- With permissions, youths are able to construct houses in their parents’ homestead when they are ready to marry.
- Right to sale non-timber forest products at markets without any restrictions.
- Tree harvest for domestic house construction with a permission of Executive Committee of WaBuB.



### *3. Obligations and Duties of WaBuB Members*

WaBuB member will have the following restrictions, which are included in FMA:

- Expansion of homestead into forests.
- Expansion of forest coffee and farmland.
- Maintenance of the registered border between farmland and the forest.
- Destructive slashing of trees and improper forest use.

The main responsibilities are to:

- Make proper use of forest resources by harvesting old and dead trees in favor of young ones, and encourage natural regeneration.
- Prevent practices that hamper tree growth such as debarking, trunk burning, girdling and others.
- Conduct joint monitoring and evaluation of the forest condition.

