



Forests for climate balance

NABU takes action to protect tropical forests

With the International Climate Initiative (ICI) the German Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMU) promotes projects for climate protection in developing, threshold as well as transformation countries. A newsletter informs biannually about the ICI projects of NABU.

Forest protection is climate protection

Deforestation of tropical forests is one of the main sources of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions causing global warming. NABU currently is supporting the protection of rainforests on the Indonesian island of Sumatra as part of the ICI. Another ICI project of NABU contributes to the preservation of the unique coffee forests in Ethiopia. A third project is still in the stage of application. It deals with climate protection through sustainable forest management and decentralized use of renewable energy resources in the World Natural Heritage West Caucasus.

Overview of the BMUs International Climate Initiative

Since the start of ICI in 2008, NABU has been represented in the International Advisory Board of the ICI by Thomas Tennhardt, NABU vice president and head of the international department. Next to national and international climate experts, the German Federal Minister for the Environment is also part of this advisory board. The ICI sees itself as a supplement to the German development cooperation with a clear focus on climate protection. In its third year of existence, the ICI encloses 181 projects in 61 partner countries with financial commitments amounting to 357 million EUR. 200 million EUR were spent already. Another 600 million EUR will be funded by third

parties, for example by non-governmental organizations like NABU or by initiatives of the private sector. The projects are implemented in equal parts by KfW Entwicklungsbank (a promotional bank under the ownership of the Federal Republic and the federal states of Germany, supporting sustainable improvement and development cooperation), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), working in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development, as well as by NGOs. With 50 percent most ICI projects support the field of renewable energies. 10 percent of the ICI projects in total are currently dealing with measures for climate adaptation. By 2012, the contingent of those projects is supposed to increase up to a percentage of 35. Broken down to project types one third of the ICI projects can be assigned to the subject area of Capacity Building. Another 27 percent deal with financial instruments, 26 percent with the implementation of projects and 14 percent with policy advice.

In the Indonesian „rainforest of hope“ an ICI lighthouse project is shining

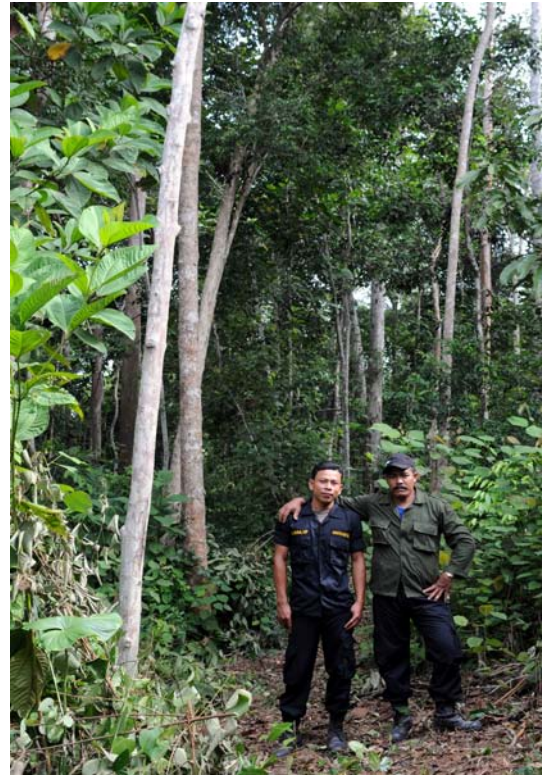
In March 2010, NABU has celebrated the start of the next project phase of “Harapan Rainforest” (“rainforest of hope”) in Berlin with representatives of the BMU, the KfW, the Indonesian as well as the

British Embassy and many other guests. Harapan Rainforest is a joint initiative of a consortium of Burung Indonesia, RSPB und BirdLife International. The rainforest is located on the Indonesian island of Sumatra and has been declared by the Indonesian government as the first so-called area for ecosystem restoration. This is nothing short of a sensation. Up until 2008, only licenses to cut down the wood had been granted in Indonesia. With the new license for ecosystem restoration it will be possible for the first time to protect the forest from deforestation for the coming 100 years. The owner of this new type of license is obliged to protect and to restore the forest ecosystem. Within the framework of a new ICI project, NABU and the British BirdLife partner Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have started to support the Indonesian organization Yayasan KEHI in the field of protection and restoration of the rich flora and fauna. Yayasan KEHI was founded by the consortium specifically for the administration of Harapan Rainforest.

Through KfW Entwicklungsbank the BMU had granted more than 7.5 million EUR for the protection of Harapan Rainforest in the end of 2009. The project is considered as an ICI „lighthouse project“ at the BMU. Just a few months after the celebration of the project start, the first news of success can be announced: With 98,000 hectares Harapan Rainforest is now larger than the German capital of Berlin. The Indonesian government had almost doubled the licensed area by the end of June 2010.

Harapan acts as a model: Pioneer work already sees imitators

NABU and its partners within the BirdLife network are carrying out pioneer work in the Harapan Rainforest. This is also observed by other organizations: More and more applications for licences for ecosystem restoration are received by the Indonesian ministry of forestry, asking for the permission to save what can still be saved. Indonesia is home to about ten percent (90 million hectares) of the remaining tropical forests worldwide. Two thirds of it are classified as production forest. If these woodlands will be used as before, according to estimates of the Indonesian government 14 million hectares of wood



Already more than 170 „green jobs“ have been created in the Harapan rainforest.

could be destroyed or damaged within the next 20 years. This would cause an estimated emission of 2.8 billion tons of carbon dioxide. The new forest license could slow down this disastrous trend. Another 24 million hectares of suitable production rainforest in Indonesia are waiting to be protected. And the interest is growing: Last year the Indonesian ministry received as many applications for ecosystem restoration licenses as those for the forests economic use. Together the applications for restoration that are currently checked by the ministry amount to around two million hectares of forest. However, this amazing trend started with Harapan.

Up to now, the project has achieved important results. For example more than 170 „green jobs“ for the local community in the field of forest protection have been created. As a consequence, the cases of illegal deforestation and arson in the forest decreased decisively. Currently more than five million trees are planted in the degraded areas of Harapan Rainforest.

Support for the last Afromontane rainforest in Ethiopia

The world climate conference in December 2009, in Copenhagen had offered a suitable occasion to introduce the very first ICI project by NABU to journalists from all over the world. In collaboration with the Ethiopian government and other partners, the dense mountain forests in Ethiopia will be protected and used by the local population in a sustainable way at the same time. The project is scheduled to run till 2013 and is hoped to serve on an international level as a model for the protection of climate and forest in combination with sustainable regional development.

Experts estimate that about 40 percent of the land surface of Ethiopia has been covered with forest just 40 years ago. Only 3.6 percent of it is left today. Most of the woodlands fell victim to the demand for new arable land, timber and firewood. Apart from serious effects on the animals and plants, this also had a negative impact on the climate: High amounts of carbon dioxide have been released. The forests left are not capable of storing the same amount of carbon dioxide as before. According to United Nations studies the situation could worsen: If the trend continues, Ethiopia will have lost all of its forests by 2020.

Renaturation and local development go hand in hand

One of the last forests is located in Kafa, in the southwest of the country. The Afromontane cloud forest is unique in providing an immense genetic resource. These forests are considered to be the origin and the centre of the genetic variety of *Coffea arabica*. Thus the ICI project by NABU contributes significantly to the preservation of biological diversity. The integrative approach may act as a best-practice model for the protection of climate and natural resources in combination with sustainable local development. New ways of income generation, for example through ecotourism as well as in the field of ranger services are set to improve the standard of living of the local population. Another goal of the NABU ICI project in Ethiopia is to support one of the first UNESCO biosphere reserves in Ethiopia, namely the



Sustainable forest management guarantees a secure income.

Kafa Biosphere Reserve. The area of the biosphere reserve encloses about 760,000 hectares. Here the reforestation and renaturation of natural forest and cultivated land with indigenous species is planned. To respond to the needs of the population 1,500 hectares will be built up as plantations for firewood with fast growing trees. In addition 10,000 wood-saving stoves are introduced in selected municipalities – this measure has already been effective elsewhere in Ethiopia. The use of 10,000 hectares of forest is supposed to be orientated towards the concept of „Participatory Forest Management“ (PFM). It will be planned and implemented in cooperation with the people living in or close to the biosphere reserve. As part of PFM, the government is handing over the user rights to the people for an indefinite period of time. This has been practiced in Kafa successfully since many years.

Also the regional development in the Kafa biosphere reserve will not be overlooked: tourist infrastructure like wild coffee trails, wild animal and bird observation towers, a road network, an historical outdoor museum, seminars and a model ecotourism lodge are set to create income and to support the seminal aim of the Ethiopian government: encourage tourism. A group of 30 rangers, employed and trained through the project, will advise the inhabitants of the biosphere reserve as well as visitors. They will give tips and information, for example concerning the establishment of adaptive, sustainable agricultural systems as well as provide guidance for tourists and improve the documentation of flora and fauna.

Wild coffee forests are the first UNESCO biosphere reserve in Ethiopia

NABU supported the Ethiopian government in the task of identifying and designating biosphere reserves. Four years of work have paid off on the 3rd of June in 2010. The wild coffee forests in the region of Kafa have been recognised as one of the first two UNESCO biosphere reserves in Ethiopia. With about 760,000 hectares the Kafa biosphere reserve is about half the size of the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. A large part of the area is covered by evergreen mountain cloud forests which are home to numerous rare animal and plant species. Since 2006, NABU had been



Till 2020 such forests could have disappeared in Ethiopia. NABU tries to prevent this.

Responsible

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supporting the inclusion of those forests into UNESCO's world network of biosphere reserves. Until recently, there had been no biosphere reserves in Ethiopia because the concept had been unknown. Numerous high-level meetings, workshops and reciprocal visits of delegations in Ethiopia and Germany have led to a successful cooperation of NABU with the authorities and the inhabitants on site. This success is also a result of the tireless work of the Ethiopian colleagues and the exchange with experts from other African countries. The efforts of NABU were also supported by Public Private Partnerships in the field of wild coffee marketing, participatory forest management and family planning.

New ways of communication for a new perception of climate protection

The work of NABU in Ethiopia and the link with climate protection has also been the main topic of a workshop held at the end of June 2010. The workshop took place as part of the "Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum" in Bonn. Journalists, politicians, NGOs, artists and entrepreneurs met to exchange views and information on climate change. The participants of the workshop worked out the role communication and media could play in buffering the impacts of climate change and helping to conserve the unique forests in Ethiopia.