



***Coffee-novation:***  
Green diversification of Ethiopia's  
garden coffee value chain

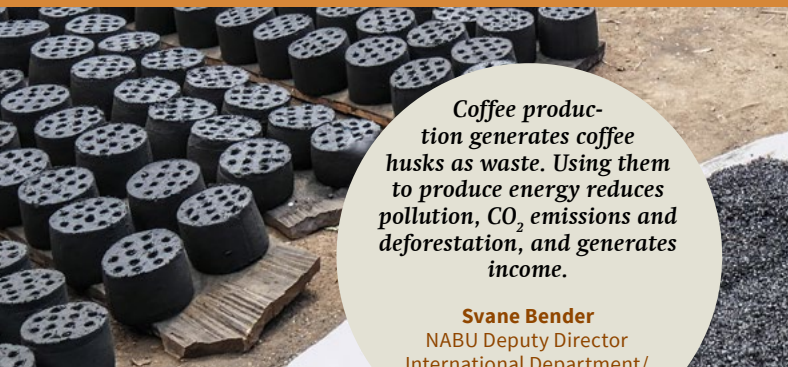




*Through coffee quality improvement, organic certification and capacity building, the Union can negotiate better prizes for coffee products. This leads to higher income for coffee farmers.*

**Abebe Magnecho**  
General Manager  
KFCFCU

## For sustainable value chains in the Kafa Biosphere Reserve



*Coffee production generates coffee husks as waste. Using them to produce energy reduces pollution, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and deforestation, and generates income.*

**Svane Bender**  
NABU Deputy Director  
International Department/  
Head of Africa Programme



*Organic farming and climate-neutral production are the minimum to have sustainable coffee. A transparent supply chain with direct contact to Ethiopian farmers is important to us.*

**Lars Brinker**  
Head of Sustainable  
Sourcing & Quality of  
coffee Lebensbaum

### The coffee gardens of the Kafa Biosphere Reserve

The Kafa Biosphere Reserve in south-western Ethiopia is considered the cradle of Arabica coffee known all around the world. The local people's life and traditions have been centred on coffee production and traditional coffee consumption for centuries. Nowadays, the region is increasingly challenged by the impacts of climate change, a lack of sustainable income and employment as well as missing innovation for green development.

Garden coffee is produced by farmers in the vicinity of their homes. It is traditionally organic and grown in very small quantities alongside other crops and shade-providing trees. The coffee represents an essential source of income for the majority of small-holder households living in and around the Kafa

Biosphere Reserve. However, at present garden coffee is undervalued, not commercialised and there is no quality management in place.

### Joining forces for sustainable coffee value chains

NABU joined forces with the German company Lebensbaum, the Austrian company Goldkind GmbH, the Ethiopian Kafa Forest Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (KFCFCU) and the Danish NGO Forests of the World, with the aim to develop the garden coffee value chain. The project creates self-sustaining and environmentally-friendly business models around garden coffee by developing new products:

- Organic Kafa garden coffee
- Organic cascara products
- Coffee husk briquettes





The project has helped us get organised into a cooperative. It is indeed a great opportunity. We have hope of cultivating and selling our coffee for a good price.

**Degefu Haile**  
Garden coffee farmer  
from Kafa Biosphere  
Reserve



Due to its upcycled nature and unique nutrient and bio-active compound composition, a market for premium organic cascara for beverages and other products is slowly emerging in Europe.

**Uschi Zimmerman**  
Founder Goldkind  
GmbH

By building the capacity of co-operatives and helping them access profitable markets, cooperative membership will become attractive as a model for other farmers.

**Kristian Lybæk**  
Hub Coordinator East Africa  
Forests of the World

Traditional garden coffee farming is vital to preserve local biodiversity. It is a diversified farming system, providing a habitat for many insect, bird and plant species.

**Mesfin Tekle**  
NABU Senior Local  
Project Coordinator



This will diversify the value chain, increase the market value, create income and jobs. On top, it may serve as an inspiring model for local development and a climate-resilient green economy in Ethiopia.

### Our objective is to create:

- A new market: organically certified garden coffee
- New products from cascara, the coffee husk
- Renewable green energy from a waste product: coffee husk briquettes
- 25 new jobs for youth and women
- New income opportunities for at least 1,450 people
- 40,000 kilograms of single origin garden coffee
- 8 farmers' cooperatives
- Commercial responsibility for sustainable business





NABU, The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, has promoted the interests of people and nature for more than 120 years drawing on its unwavering commitment, specialised expertise and the backing of its 875,000 members and supporters. The NGO is the largest of its kind in Germany.



[www.NABU.de/coffeenovation](http://www.NABU.de/coffeenovation)

[www.kafa-biosphere.com](http://www.kafa-biosphere.com)

NABU has been working towards the protection of Kafa's unique environment with national and international partners and support from the German government since 2006. NABU aims to ensure the conservation and restoration of the Afromontane cloud forests and wetlands to preserve ecosystem resilience and unique biodiversity, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and sustain ecosystem services for local communities.



*"Coffee-novation: Green diversification of Ethiopia's garden coffee value chain"*

The project is implemented as a partnership between NABU, Lebensbaum, Forests of the World, Goldkind GmbH, South West Ethiopia Peoples' Region (SWEPR), Kafa Zone Administration and Kafa Forest Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (KFCFCU).



Kafa Zone Administration

The project is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and Danida Market Development Partnerships.



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**Imprint**  
Edition: 09/2022  
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