

DIR BIYABIR QUARTERLY UPDATE

4TH QUARTER 2012

WWW.DIRBIYABIR.ORG

DECEMBER 14, 2012

GREETINGS

DEAR MEMBERS



IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2012 WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT SOME GREAT NEWS. DIR BIYABIR WON A GRANT OF \$86,300 FROM OUR LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS, THE CHRISTENSEN FUND!

THE GRANT WAS WON FOR A PROPOSAL WE CO-DEVELOPED WITH ADHENO FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL REHABILITATION AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN THE NORTHERN SHEWA REGION OF ETHIOPIA. WE SINCERELY THANK THE CHRISTENSEN FUND FOR THE LARGEST GRANT IN OUR HISTORY AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR WORK IN ETHIOPIA.

AS WE WRAP UP 2012, WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND OUR MEMBERS TO PLEASE PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES AS EARLY IN THE CALENDAR YEAR AS POSSIBLE. WE CONTINUE TO SEE A LOT OF FOLKS WAITING UNTIL NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BEFORE PAYING MEMBERSHIP DUES. YOUR RENEWALS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED, BUT THIS DELAY DOES DRIVE A LOT OF EXTRA WORK ON OUR END TO SEND REMINDERS, SO WE KINDLY REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS. PAYING DUES BY JUNE OF EACH YEAR WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS HELP.

WE THANK BOTH OUR NEW AND CONTINUING MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT. YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOT ONLY FINANCES PROJECTS IN ETHIOPIA, IT ALSO GIVES US THE MORAL SUPPORT TO CONTINUE OUR WORK. THANK YOU!

WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

The goal of the project is to rehabilitate the environment in Northern Shewa by addressing the root cause of the severe environmental degradation, i.e. extreme poverty. The vast majority of trees are chopped for firewood for cooking or for building housing. The resulting soil erosion has led to steep declines in agricultural yields in this farming community. Thus the project scope includes planting and caring for indigenous trees, protecting the soil, reducing the demand for firewood, making clean water available, and developing microbusinesses to generate additional income for villagers.

Our partners in Ethiopia, Adheno have already demonstrated great success with such an integrated approach in two smaller projects that Dir Biyabr had sponsored in the past with funding from TCF. It is based on this success that

TCF funded the implementation of this concept on a larger scale.

Adheno conducted extensive discussions with the community to understand their key needs and priorities and this was integrated into the following project activities:

- Plant and care for 150,000 indigenous trees, including medicinal plants
- Develop clean source of water, soil and water conservation
- Locally made fuel efficient stoves
- Set up income-generating micro businesses: textile weaving, baskets making, bee-keeping, horticulture
- Upgrade current footpath to horse path for better access to markets
- De-worming of school children

We wish Adheno and the community much success with this project and look forward to reporting their progress.

