

For immediate release

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Ethiopian Forestry Cooperative Scoops Prestigious Green Award on World Environment Day

A forestry cooperative group in Danno-Sengota district, Ethiopia, has received a prestigious green award from the President of Ethiopia on World Environment Day. The group is part of a Participatory Forest Management Project supported by the NGOs FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel.

The national awards were given to those who have made an exceptional environmental contribution in Ethiopia.

The Danno-Sengota Cooperative, based in Chilimo Forest, received the Civil Society Green Award at the National Palace in Addis Ababa for the significant impact it has made on rehabilitating a degraded area of forest where illegal logging had been common. They encouraged the regeneration of indigenous tree species and put a halt to the destruction of this fragile ecosystem.

In his speech, President Girma Wolde Giorgis said that World Environment Day was an appropriate occasion to acknowledge those who have contributed to environmental conservation in Ethiopia. The country has recently seen serious flooding that took the lives of many and left thousands homeless in the east and south of the country. The President asked that all Ethiopians to join hands to make the country and the world a better place to live in.

The Participatory Forest Management Project aims to encourage the Ethiopian Government and local communities to manage forests in partnership. This project assists communities to build alternative livelihoods that are not damaging to the local environment for those people living in and around the fragile forest. The project began in 2002 and has implemented field projects in Bonga, Chilimo and Borana forests.

Note to Editors:

Further information on the Participatory Forest Management Programme can be found at www.pfmp-farmsos.org

Interviews and site visits can be conducted through the Participatory Forest Management Unit. Contact Arsema Andargatchew, T: +251 (0)11- 4168483; E arsemaa@ethionet.et

FARM-Africa

FARM-Africa (Food and Agricultural Research Management) is an international non-governmental organisation that aims to reduce poverty through developing innovative approaches to natural resource management in Africa. Through our projects in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania Southern Sudan and Uganda we work in partnership with marginal small-scale farmers and herders to improve the ways in which they farm their land. Working with a wide range of rural communities, we concentrate on four priority areas – Pastoral Development, Community Forest Management, Smallholder Development and Land Reform. With the international headquarters based in London, UK, we have country offices in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Tanzania and Sudan.

SOS Sahel Ethiopia

SOS Sahel Ethiopia envisions a world without poverty, and works towards this goal by improving the living standards of farmers and herders, eliminating chronic food insecurity and ensuring environmental sustainability. SOS Sahel Ethiopia is a national NGO with 17 years of experience in working with rural communities and the Ethiopian Government to tackle poverty in Ethiopia. It is a member of the Sahel Alliance of organisations specialising in the sustainable development of semi-arid and arid areas. Through this Alliance it has links with Mali, Niger, Sudan, Kenya and the United Kingdom.