

# Biannual Report

## EthioTrees Project

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1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025

## **Biannual Report**

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# Biannual report 1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025

Submitted by: EthioTrees

Date of submission: 03 – 09 – 2024

## Summary

Project overview	
Reporting period	1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025
Geographical areas	Tigray Region, Ethiopia
Technical specifications in use	See approved PDD EthioTrees: Ecosystem Restoration and Agroforestry

**Table 1: Summary table**

Project indicators	Historical (2016-2024)	Added/ Issued this period (Aug. 2024-July 2025)	Total
No. smallholder households with PES agreements: ex-ante	780 <sup>a</sup>	787	1,567
No. community groups with PES agreements (where applicable) by July 2024	104	14	118
Approximate number of households in these community groups	40,790	4,980	45,770
Restoration area under management (ha) with PES agreements in place	21,526 <sup>b</sup>	3,094	24,620
Agroforestry area under ex ante issuance scheme	255 <sup>c</sup>	325	580
Total PES payments made to participants (USD):	1,769,613 USD	see February report	1,769,613 USD
Total sum held in trust for future PES payments (USD) (ex-ante)	243,621 USD	see February report	243,621 USD
Allocation to Plan Vivo buffer (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	54,911	+2823 EP restoration. +4,765 EA agroforestry	62,499
Saleable emissions reductions achieved (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	490,687	+25,406 EP restoration. +35,515 EA agroforestry	551,608
Unsold Stock at time of Submission (PVC)			-
-			-
<b>Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs) issued to date</b>		<b>490,687</b>	
<b>Plan Vivo Certificates requested for issuance (Aug. 2024 – July. 2025 Vintage)</b>		<b>60,921</b>	
<b>Plan Vivo Certificates available for future issuance</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Total PVCs issued (including this report)</b>		<b>551,608</b>	

<sup>a</sup> Adjusted for smallholder dropouts (31) from 2024-cycle (see section E)

- <sup>b</sup> Landscape area, in line with the latest PDD update  
<sup>c</sup> Agroforestry area 2024, corrected for dropouts  
<sup>d</sup> PES payments following the ex-ante scheme  
<sup>e</sup> based on ETB to USD conversion (oanda.com dd. 31/12/2024)

## Part A: Project updates

### A1: Key events

- The project nursery capacity significantly increased to nurture and plant more than 250,000 endemic and naturalized tree seedlings for agroforestry and enrichment planting in July 2025. The nurturing and planting activities generally occurred smoothly.
- The Famine Early Warning System Network reported in July 2025 that “millions of people—especially in Tigray, Amhara, Afar, and drought-affected areas of the Somali and Oromia regions—remain classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse, i.e. crisis levels of acute food insecurity.”
- To expand its impact, the EthioTrees project extended its activities in neighboring communities (see further). Baseline and first-year project activities were carried out successfully.
- This year another 788 households started agroforestry activities with support of the project.
- To extend and amplify its impact, the project will continue its expansion.
- This is the last biannual report. From 2026 onwards, all activities will align with a monitoring and issuance timing from February to February.

### A2: Successes and challenges

- One of the main successes included the humanitarian support program using the Plan Vivo reinvestment budget. The communities used their project revenues to invest in solar panels, water infrastructure and classrooms.
- The EthioTrees team has grown to include 25 coordinators and experts in 6 offices in Tigray (Mekelle, Hagere Selam, Abiy Adi, Edaga Arbi, Shire and Wukro), while the nurseries additionally provide local employment for 26 nursery technicians (of which 10 women).
- The main focus of the trainings in this reporting period, was to maintain awareness on the

environmental protection of the community forests while maintaining sustainable management during a period of acute food insecurity.

- The positive impact of the project on the water table is demonstrated by observations of spring water resurgence and new spring developments downstream of the protected forest patches.
  - In the fruit nursery of Abiy Adi improved grafting is successfully applied to improve the quality of the fruit seedlings.
- Although the seedlings need careful follow-up, the interest of smallholder farmers to join the project is very large. There is a large potential for expanding the project impact by involving more farmers over time.
  - The extreme level of food insecurity remains the biggest challenge to date.
- Driven by the internationally rising demand for gold, investors are interested to start gold mining activities around Shire. Such mining activities have devastating effects on the environment. We collaborate closely with the community and the local government (woreda) in building a united position. against participation in such environmentally destructive activity. in such environmentally destructive activity.
- Survival rate of agroforestry plantings is rising compared to last year. More attention is given to improve pit preparations and aftercare in line with the SAB recommendations.
- The demand for fruit trees is higher than the nursery capacity. Grafted fruits are preferred, but these take longer to grow. To answer the demand, we are stepwise increasing our capacity of nurturing grafted fruit seedlings.

### **A3: Project developments**

Below, we give an overview of the project developments that have affected the governance, operations, contractual relationships or legal basis of the project:

- The PDD update of March 2025 is approved by Plan Vivo. In the PDD, updated sections on the landscape surface area calculation are integrated in the project design document.
  - The EthioTrees staff decided to continue and expand their socioecological work for the citizens of Tigray and Ethiopia.

### **A4 Future Developments**

- Further activities next year will focus on the existing exclosures, including trainings, seedling planting and seedling irrigation, and the installation of soil and water conservation structures such as percolation ponds, trenches and soil bunds. We aim to invest the plan vivo funds in “social recovery projects”, at the initiative of the citizen councils, and where possible focussed on schooling, food and drinking water.
- In 2025 and 2026, the project objective remains to further scale its impact to contribute to the post-conflict reconstruction in the region. Not only through expansion into adjacent districts, but also by strengthening the project’s catchment approach through further integration of ecosystem restoration and agroforestry.

## Part B: Project activities

### B1: Project activities generating Plan Vivo Certificates

- We list the technical specifications being used in the project, the area covered and participants in table 2 below. We only include those areas where PES agreements have been signed.

Table 2: Project activity summary

Name of technical specification	Area (Ha)	No smallholder households	No Community Groups
Ecosystem Restoration in Tigray	21,526	0	118 (104+14)
Agroforestry: homestead intercropping (ex-ante)	580 (255*+325)	1567 (810-31*+788)	0

\*Correction for farmer dropouts from 2024 cycle

### Agroforestry activities

- The total ex-ante agroforestry project area is 580 ha-eq, aligned with the technical specification “intercropping”. Of the total area, 31 ha-eq belongs to cycle 2023, 224 ha-eq belongs to cycle 2024 and 325 ha-eq belongs to cycle 2025. Note that we make a distinction between “cycle 2023”, “cycle 2024” and “cycle 2025” based on the year that farmers entered the project.
- In the project area in total 97,703 tree seedlings have been planted in 2025. From these 54,495 seedlings are planted with new project participants (i.e. cycle 2025 farmers). Meanwhile 43,208 seedlings are planted in the 2024 cycle to correct for mortality losses and to supplement the planting conform the foreseen planting scheme. Below we provide a subdivision number per species.
- The survival rate (for cycle 2024) measured in June 2025 is on average 55% (excluding dropouts). This is (on average) below the target survival rate of 65% and is complemented by corrective and supplementary planting (see above). Which results in an average tree density of 96% of the target achieved. A next survival rate assessment is planned after approximately 6 months.
- The average survival rate for cycle 2023 measured in June 2025 is 74%, which is well

above the target survival rate of 65%. Subsequently, no corrective plantings were made. Will be followed-up next year at the three-year milestone.

Number of trees planted per specie:	Species Name	Supplement of cycle 2024	First planting of cycle 2025
	Moringa olifera	708	2427
Ziziphus spina christi	20231	25128	
Acacia Albida	9446	7292	
Grevillea robusta	2297	4245	
Acacia polycantha	3019	4246	
Azadirachta indica indica	490	1073	
Cordia africana	70	497	
Croton macrostachyus	60	55	
Mangifera indica	2813	3565	
Casuarina equisetifolia	55	200	
Citrus sinensis	74	237	
Acacia abyssinica	405	2068	
Parkinsonia aculeta	0	1027	
Persia americana	0	10	
Cupressus lusitanica	720	850	
Olea africana	2820	1575	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43208</b>	<b>54495</b>	

**B2: Project activities in addition to those generating Plan Vivo Certificates**

- Together with Tesfays project, we additionally supported some of the most vulnerable citizens from Degua Tembien (318) in cash, that is 1000 ETB each. The beneficiaries include vulnerable and assaulted women, disabled children and HIV victims.

## Part C: Plan Vivo Certificate issuance submission

### C1: Contractual statement

- This issuance is based on Plan Vivo maps and signed PES agreements with participants complying with all the minimum requirements stated in these agreements.

### C2: Issuance request for project areas where issuance is made on the basis of ongoing activities on land already managed by the project (calculated *ex-post*).

Table 3a: Statement of tCO<sub>2</sub> reductions available for issuance as Plan Vivo Certificates based on restoration activities for reporting period 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2024. Note that in this biannual report, we only request first-year issuance of the new expansion sites (all other sites will be reported in the next February report).

Area ID	Total landscape area (ha)	Tech. Spec	Saleable ER's (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) available from previous periods	Total ER's (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) achieved this period	ER's minus leakage of 2%	% Buffer	No. of PVCs allocated to buffer from ER's achieved this period	Saleable ER's (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) from this period	Issuance request (PVCs)	ER's (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) available for future issuances
Huga Hadinet	87	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	810	794	10	79	714	714	-
Adiaslamay	286	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	2663	2609	10	261	2348	2348	-
May Mahzel	224	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	2085	2044	10	204	1839	1839	-
Andaabun e kelamitos	313	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	2914	2856	10	286	2570	2570	-
Kurfada	423	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	3938	3859	10	386	3473	3473	-
May Qoqak & May Kana	94	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	875	858	10	86	772	772	-
May wozo	242	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	2253	2208	10	221	1987	1987	-
Aynimsug	359	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	3342	3275	10	328	2948	2948	-
Betambesa	109	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	1015	994	10	99	895	895	-
Gerhudem hay	162	<i>Ecosystem restoration</i>	0	1508	1478	10	148	1330	1330	-

Graweyni	164	Ecosystem restoration	0	1527	1496	10	150	1347	1347	-
Kalewa	309	Ecosystem restoration	0	2877	2819	10	282	2537	2537	-
Hula	63	Ecosystem restoration	0	587	575	10	57	517	517	-
Kumelat	233	Ecosystem restoration	0	2169	2126	10	213	1913	1913	-
Daero hidag (boundary expansion)	26	Ecosystem restoration	0	242	237	10	24	213	213	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3094</b>	<b>Ecosystem restoration</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28805</b>	<b>28229</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2823</b>	<b>25406</b>	<b>25406</b>	<b>-</b>

**C3: Issuance request for projects where issuance is made on the basis of new land being added to the project (calculated ex-ante)**

**Table 4: Issuance request for Plan Vivo Certificates allocated to new participants and land based on activity for reporting period 1 August 2023 – 31 July 2024.**

Tech. Spec. used	No of participants / groups allocated	Total area allocated (ha-eq)	Carbon Potential (tCO <sub>2</sub> /ha)	Total ER's minus leakage (tCO <sub>2</sub> )	% buffer	No. of PVCs allocated to buffer this period	Cycle correction 2024	Saleable ER's (tCO <sub>2</sub> ) from this period
<i>Homestead intercropping</i>	788	325	149.6	47,648	10	4765	-7368	35,515
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>47,648</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>-7368</b>	<b>35,515</b>

**C4: Allocation of issuance request**

- The table below details the allocation of issuances from this project.

**Table 5: Allocation of issuance request**

Buyer name/ Unsold Stock	No. PVCs transacted	Registry ID (if available) or Project ID if destined for Unsold Stock	Tech spec(s) associated with issuance
<i>Ethiotrees (first issuance) (vintage Feb2016-Feb2017)</i>	4,873	104000000014099	<i>Ecosystem Restoration</i>
<i>Ethiotrees (second issuance) (vintage Feb2017-Feb2018)</i>	5,856	104000000014099	<i>Ecosystem Restoration</i>
<i>Ethiotrees (third issuance) (vintage Feb2018 - Feb2019)</i>	9,769	104000000014099	<i>Ecosystem Restoration</i>
<i>Ethiotrees (fourth issuance) (vintage July 2018 - July 2019)</i>	5,572	104000000014099	<i>Ecosystem Restoration</i>

Ethiotrees (fifth issuance) (vintage Feb2019 – Feb2020)	12,530	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (sixth issuance) (vintage Feb2020-Feb2021)	14,819	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (seventh issuance) (vintage Feb. 2021 – Feb. 2022)	20,259	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (eighth issuance) (Feb. 2022 – Jan. 2023)	28,595	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (ninth issuance) (vintage Aug2022 – July 2023)	57,563	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (ninth issuance) (vintage Aug2022 – July 2023)	7,654	104000000014099	Agroforestry (Ex-Ante)
EthioTrees (tenth issuance) (vintage Feb. 2023 – Jan. 2024)	65,774	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (eleventh issuance) (Interim Request Form)	23,364	104000000014099	Overperformance
EthioTrees (twelveth issuance) (vintage Aug2023 – July 2024)	31,935	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (thirteenth issuance) (Interim Request Form)	33,443	104000000014099	Agroforestry (Ex-Ante)
EthioTrees (fourteenth issuance) (vintage Feb. 2024 – Jan. 2025)	144,837	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (fifteenth issuance) (Interim Request Form)	23,844	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
<b>TOTAL UP TO DATE</b>	<b>490,687</b>	<b>104000000014099</b>	
EthioTrees (sixteenth issuance) (vintage Aug2024 – July 2025)	25,406	104000000014099	Ecosystem Restoration
EthioTrees (seventeenth issuance) (vintage Aug2024 – July 2025)	35,515	104000000014099	Agroforestry (Ex-Ante)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>551,608</b>	<b>104000000014099</b>	

**C5: Data to support issuance request**

- We provide the monitoring data for areas of land and participants which support our issuance request in Annex 1.

## Part D: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

### D1: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates

- To avoid confusion, the full exhaustive list of all PVC sales will be reported in the next February report. Then, in this report, we below report on the agroforestry sales of last year's August issuance, i.e. 33,443 ex ante credits

**Table 6: Sales of Plan Vivo Certificates**

Buyer	Year of transaction*	Credits bought (tCO2-e)	Value per tonne
Trees for All (NL)	2024	30,000 EA	

\* EUR and USD conversion rate OANDA 31/12/2024

## Part E: Monitoring results

### E1: Ecosystem services monitoring

- We provide annual monitoring results that support the request for new issuances in Annex 1.

### E2: Maintaining commitments

- Due to diverse reasons (mainly the significant work load required to irrigate seedlings), 31 farmers” dropped out (i.e. 2%). These are replaced by farmers in the new planting cycle 2025.
- In total 788 new smallholder farmers started with homestead intercropping activities in 2025. In the next planting season in 2025, they committed to plant another 43,067 seedlings.

### E3: Socioeconomic monitoring

- We provide the results of monitoring of socioeconomic impacts (survey) every 5 years after baselining (impact indicators). This will be reported during the next verification audit.
- The restoration project has also clear benefits for the wider communities living around the project exclosures. The most important factors include reduction of erosion and gully, conservation of soil nutrients and groundwater. For instance, forest restoration will locally benefit water availability for the upslope communities. Overall, we expect a net gain in (ground)water availability, also for the upslope communities.
- More socioenvironmental investments will be made in 2025, through the sales of the Plan Vivo credits.

### E4: Environmental and biodiversity monitoring

- No changes to the monitoring plans or protocols of the project need to be reported in the updates section of this report.

## Part F: Impacts

### F1: Evidence of outcomes

- We report research outcomes, patterns or trends from ongoing monitoring or other information which supports the impacts – socio-economic, environmental or cultural – which the project has had every 5 years after baselining. Resampling data has been collected last year. We refer to the verification report for the evidence of outcomes.

## Part G: Payments for Ecosystem Services

### G1: Summary of PES by year

- We follow a milestone based monitoring and payment scheme for the allocation of PES services to smallholder farmers with five performance milestone and payments in the first ten years after planting.
- The 2023 agroforestry trust fund in total comprised of 57,600 euro or 63,570 USD (exchange rate 31/12/2023). Two fifths of the trust fund has already been distributed: two slices of 11,520 euro or 713,151 ETB or 12,714 USD each (exchange rate 31/12/2023).
- The 2024 agroforestry trust fund in total comprised of 246,600 EUR or 256,849 USD (exchange rate 31/12/2024). One fifth of the trust fund has already been distributed.
- All payments are made in line with the terms of PES agreements signed.

**Table 8: Summary of payments made and held in trust**

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1. Reporting year (mm/yy – mm/yy)	2. Total previous payments (previous reporting periods)	3. Total ongoing payments (in this reporting period)	4. Total payments made (2+3)	5. Total payments held in trust	6. Total payments withheld
Feb2016-Jan2017	0	0	0	0	0
Feb2017-Jan2018	0	0	0	0	0
Feb2018-Jan2019	0	31,795	31,795	0	0
Aug2018-July2019	31,795	38,271	70,066	0	0
Feb2019-Jan2020	70,066	16,053	86,119	0	0
Feb2020-Jan2021	86,119	58,298	144,417	0	0
Feb2021-Jan2022	144,417	50,891	195,308	0	0
Feb2022-Jan2023	195,308	140,332	335,640	0	0
Feb2023-Jan2024	335,640	221,846	557,486	0	0
Aug2023-July2024	557,486	546,560	1,104,046	50,856	0
Feb2024-Jan2025	1,104,046	665,567	1,769,613	192,765	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,104,046</b>	<b>1,769,613</b>	<b>1,769,613</b>	<b>243,621</b>	<b>0</b>

## Part H: Ongoing participation

### H1: Recruitment

- Recruitment of the associations / focus groups of all enclosures was completed before the earliest stage of the vintage period. All sites comply with the eligibility criteria set out in the PDD.
- During this reporting period, 14 new communities have been recruited.

### H2: Project Potential

- No participant or area under management is on the project's 'waiting list' i.e. where a PES agreement is not yet signed but a *plan vivo* is in use.

### H3: Community participation

- There are weekly informal meetings with the communities via the community liaison officers (frequently after Sunday church). These meetings are important to get

feedback and sensitize the participants. Overall the community feedback is very positive, there are no major issues raised.

- In addition, the project organized 45 trainings with 4639 community participants on diverse topics such as exclosure management, agroforestry, awareness and plan vivo mapping.

## Part I: Project operating costs

### I1: Allocation of costs

- We completed the table below summarizing project costs and the sources of income used to meet these costs.

Table 9: Allocation of costs (2025 annual account to be presented in next February report).

Expense	Narrative	Amount	Contribution from sale of PVCs	Contribution from other sources
Investments	Project investments (excluding PES) (ETB)	Annual accounts will be presented in the February report		
Functioning	Mobility, Offices, field materials, logistical costs (ETB)			
Personnel	Coordination, project staff (ETB)			
Plan Vivo investments	See the cost allocation described in section G1			
Trust fund 2023	PES budget in trust fund (total) (USD)			
Trust fund 2024	PES budget in trust fund (total) (USD)			

## Annexes

### Annex 1. Monitoring results that supports the issuance request

#### Ecosystem Services Monitoring

Activity	Activity Indicator (measure annually)	Annual Targets			Results
		Full Target Achievement	Partial Target Achievement	Missed Target	
Restoration activities	Area of each enclosure undergoing active restoration activities	>10%	=10%	<10%	All project areas are undergoing restoration
Tree Planting	Number of seedlings	>=10000 seedlings	<10000 and >=5000	<5000 seedlings	154,893
	Survival Rate	>=60%	<60 and >=40	<40%	53% (note that the survival rate is lower, but that the

					total amount of seedlings planted strongly exceeds the annual target)
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\* If one or more of the indicator values is below its performance target for one monitoring period, the full issuance is received but corrective actions must be implemented.

### Socioeconomic Monitoring

Activity	Activity Indicator (measure annually)	Annual Targets			Results
		Full Target Achievement	Partial Target Achievement	Missed Target	
<b>Capacity-Building</b>	Number of organized trainings for landless farmers (M/V) per year per enclosure	1		0	For all 15 sites, trainings have been organised
	Participants from more vulnerable groups (women, youth, elderly people)	>25%		<25%	Average female participation was 29.4%
<b>Availability of grass fodder</b>	Beneficiaries of grass fodder per enclosure	>=3	<3 and >=2	0	39,987 grass bundles have been collected through cut and carry by 4,029 households)
<b>Countering displaced grazing</b>	Index for number of observations of displaced grazing mentioned during the yearly meeting of association, other NTFP users and the village council and corroborated in the field by EthioTrees staff(*)	<2	2	>2	At all sites <2
<b>Countering timber harvesting on public lands</b>	Index for number of observations of timber harvesting on public lands mentioned during the yearly meeting of association, other NTFP users and the village council and corroborated in the field by EthioTrees	<2	2	>2	At all sites <2

	staff(*)				
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\* The indexes are categorized in five scores with 2 being medium pressure. A category 2 for grazing pressure agrees with little presence of livestock dung and hoofmarks, soil not compacted and grasses abundantly available. A category 2 for harvesting pressure agrees with little evidence of illegal stem or branch cuttings.

*Environmental Monitoring*

Activity	Activity Indicator (measure annually)	Annual Targets			Result and mitigating actions
		Full Target Achievement	Partial Target Achievement	Missed Target	
		>=2	<2 and >=1	0	
<b>Water Management</b>	Number of Percolation Ponds per exclosure				At all sites, at minimum 2 water management activities have been carried out.

There are the following consequences for certificate issuance and corrective actions that will be implemented if the yearly performance targets are not met:

- (i) If the values for all indicators meet or exceed their performance target, the full issuance is received;
- (ii) If one or more of the indicator values is below its performance target for one monitoring period, the full issuance is received but corrective actions must be implemented;
- (iii) If one or more of the indicator values is below its performance target for two consecutive monitoring periods, certificate issuance is withheld until corrective actions have been implemented and the performance target(s) have been reached.

## Annex 2. Short photo report



Community discussion and awareness workshop in Segenet and May Baeti



Direct support of vulnerable persons (female headed households and orphans, supported by Tesfay project.



Excavation of borehole for drinking water in Amanit



Handover of new primary school building in Rubaminchi



Certificate of recognition from the community of Adilal



Improved grafting of mango seedlings in Tanque nursery



Raising seedlings in Bega nursery



Transport and application of manure in enrichment planting, Segenet site.



Dr Atakilti enclosure, Jira, halfmoon and pit preparation for enclosure enrichment planting



Farque, Awetbiqalsi village, construction of soil and water conservation structures.



Examples of Plan Vivo mappings in Adiaslamy and Mayneta sites

