



A Convenient Truth

Aid to the developing world can improve lives AND reduce global warming

With the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen rapidly approaching and the Waxman-Hartley bill capping carbon emissions working its way through the U.S. Congress it is worth considering how aid to the third world can intersect with climate change initiatives.

The Kyoto Protocol established the principle that reducing carbon emissions elsewhere is a legitimate way of reducing one's carbon footprint. More recently, environmentalists have focused on how international aid to the developing world can be coupled with carbon reduction initiatives.

Consider the problems related to cooking meals in sub Saharan Africa. Meals are cooked over open fires that use a lot of firewood. Girls have to collect the fire-



An stove/oven that makes you smile

"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings."

*- Nelson Mandela,
Trafalgar Square, Feb 4, 2005*

The last few weeks have brought disconcerting news about Ethiopia. Brian Stewart, from the CBC, writes that 7 million people in the country are on food relief. The number could double as the country endures a continuing drought in many areas.

Partners in the Horn of Africa is addressing the problems of Ethiopia and follows two unique principles:

- *100% of all donations go directly into projects in Ethiopia. Our Board members work voluntarily and cover all operating costs.*
- *Each project has an Ethiopian "partner" who contributes 15-20% of the project cost, usually in the form of labour.*



The stove is used to heat pots and as an oven to cook Injera (flat bread) and other breads

been accepted and verified under the Kyoto Protocol. The anticipated annual greenhouse gas reductions generated by these projects range from 2,300 to 90,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted (t/CO₂e). These are significant benefits to everyone on the planet and at the same time they improve immeasurably the lives of rural Ethiopians.

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wood and, in Ethiopia, this involves long trips since only 1% of the natural forests remain. Because they are out lugging wood many girls don't go to school. And cutting trees for firewood creates erosion and degrades the soil.

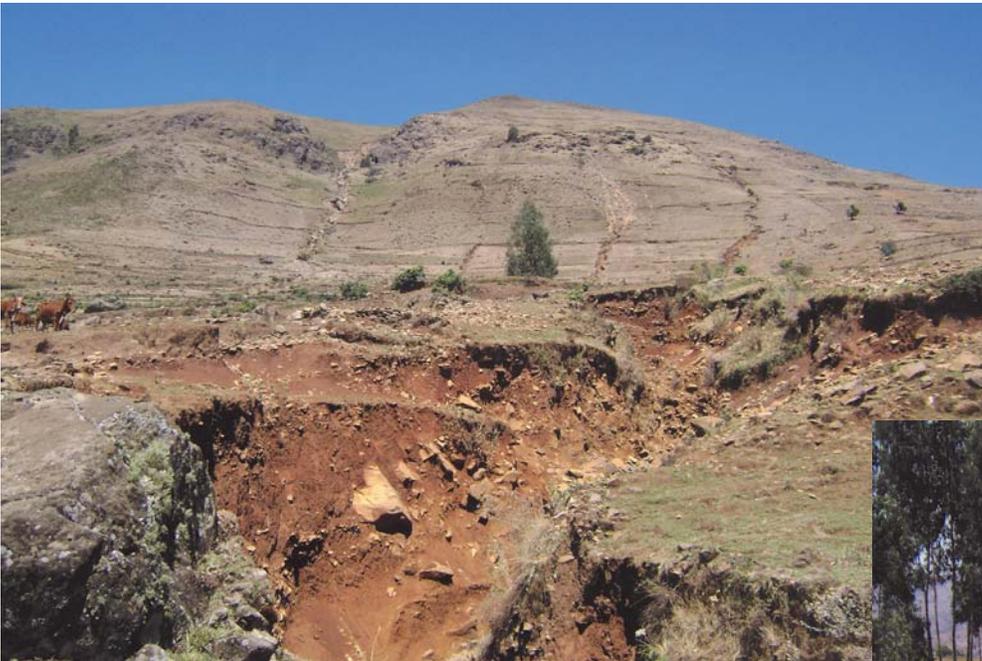
Fuel efficient stoves are an effective way of addressing these issues and **Partners in the Horn of Africa** started building and distributing them 5 years ago. They can be made from clay or cement and are simple in design. They reduce the rate of burn by enclosing the fire and use about 50% of the wood that would be consumed with an open fire.

The benefits of the stoves are many. For starters, girls spend 50% less time collecting firewood, freeing up time for school. 50% less trees are required and this addresses soil degradation. And building the stoves generates income for the artisans; typically women involved in one of **Partners'** micro financing programs.

So much for the direct benefits to individuals. On the carbon emission front, fuel efficient stoves dramatically reduce carbon emissions (again in the 50% range). Several fuel-efficient stove projects in Africa have already



*Women in a **Partners'** micro financing program making stoves*



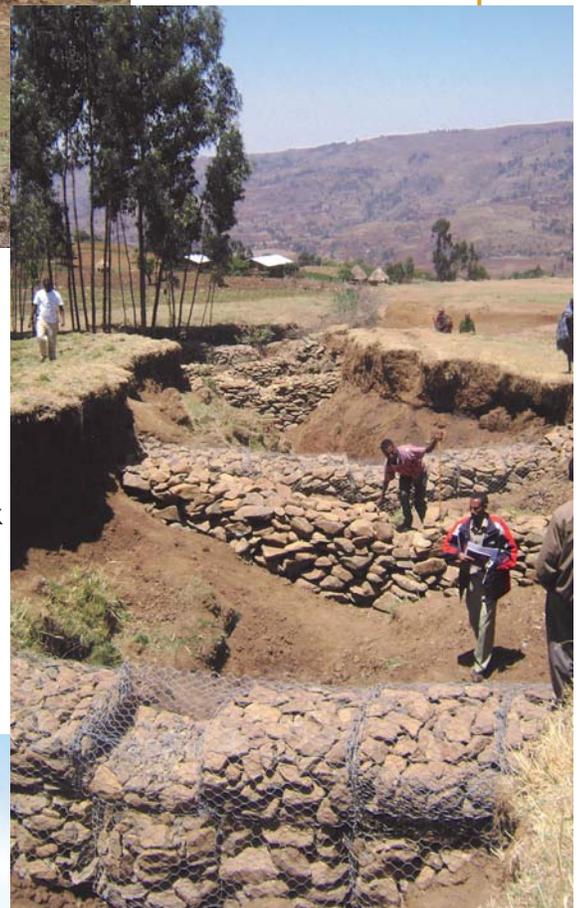
Erosion effects of de-forestation in the Dinsir Metakir area

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Partners in the Horn of Africa is also developing other environmentally friendly projects in Ethiopia.

In the village of Dinsir Metakir, **Partners** and EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd., our Canadian 'partner', have just planted 66,000 seedlings to restore badly eroded hillsides so that livestock can again graze in the area.

In West Gojjam, we are installing biogas digesters under school latrines. This cleans up the school grounds and generates methane for cooking....again reducing the need for firewood.



Stone retaining walls help overcome erosion

The newly planted hillside will ultimately promote moisture retention and allow grazing again

About Yehalem and Cindy

As **Partners in the Horn of Africa** grows, we've made some changes. John Baigent is the Executive-Director with overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations. Yehalem Abebe Metiku is the Country Representative for **Partners** and runs things in Ethiopia. In Canada, Cindy Stewart will work with John and be responsible for running the Canadian office and liaising with our supporters.

The important point to note is that **Partners** does not cover any of its administrative expenses with donations. The directors and a small group of donors cover all office expenses, including salaries. 100% of all donations to **Partners in the Horn of Africa** go directly to our projects in Ethiopia.

Yehalem Abebe Metiku, Country Representative, Ethiopia

Yehalem is our Country Representative in Addis Ababa and is the person responsible for our operations in Ethiopia. Yehalem did his postgraduate studies at the University of Victoria after a very successful career working for international and Ethiopian charities. During his studies in Canada he sat on the **Partners'** Board of Directors.

Partners is lucky to have Yehalem working for us. He is hugely respected within the Ethiopian community and is one of the most knowledgeable aid workers in the country and an invaluable asset to our board in formulating policy and selecting projects.



Cindy Stewart, Canadian Director



In September Cindy joined our staff and will be in charge of Canadian operations. We are delighted with this outcome. Cindy is not only familiar with **Partners** as a former board member, but she lives just down the road in Vernon.

As many of you know, Cindy is by training a physiotherapist but from 1993 to 2007 was the president of the Health Sciences Association of British Columbia, the union, which represents 15,000 health, and community social service professionals who work across BC. Cindy was re-elected to that position 7 times before stepping down.

Cindy's management experience and professional abilities will be of great advantage as

Partners grows into an influential force in the delivery of Canadian international aid. Cindy's highly respected reputation and integral involvement in the trade union movement will also strengthen our connections to a community that has been instrumental to our success in the past.



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Our mission is to improve the lives of Ethiopians. We listen to their needs and partner with them on projects that empower communities and individuals and contribute to their well being.

Our Board of Directors

John Baigent
Mekonen Bayssie
Patricia Blocksom
David Cosco
Marguerite Jackson
John McAlpine
Seaton McLean
Vince Ready
Brooke Sundin

Moving? Please let us know your new address so we can keep in touch.

Email? Let us know if you prefer to receive your newsletter by email.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead

Your donations are making a difference in the lives of many Ethiopians. On their behalf we thank you.

We are a recognized Canadian charity and issue tax receipts for all donations.