

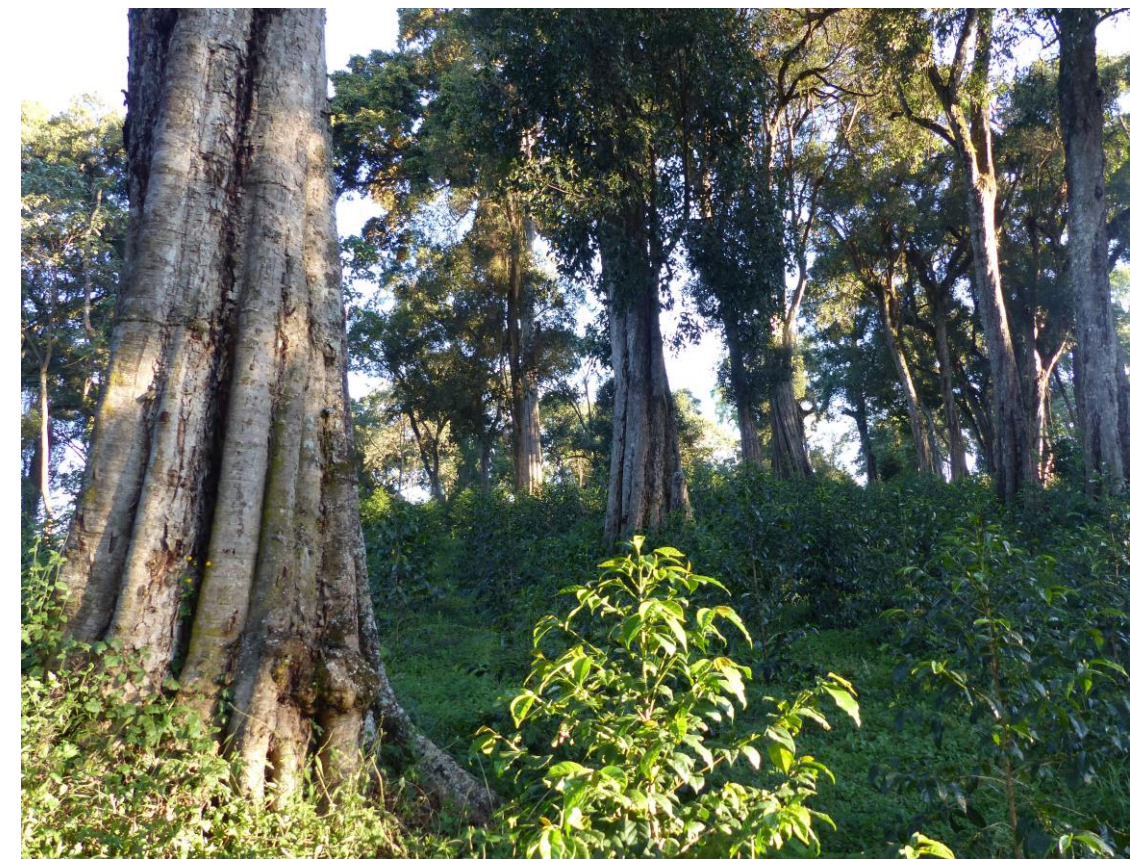
# Forest Coffees in Ethiopia : an original agroforestry system to be highlighted



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Coffee growing under forest, Hambela, Guji



Qararo trees with coffee, Hambela, Guji

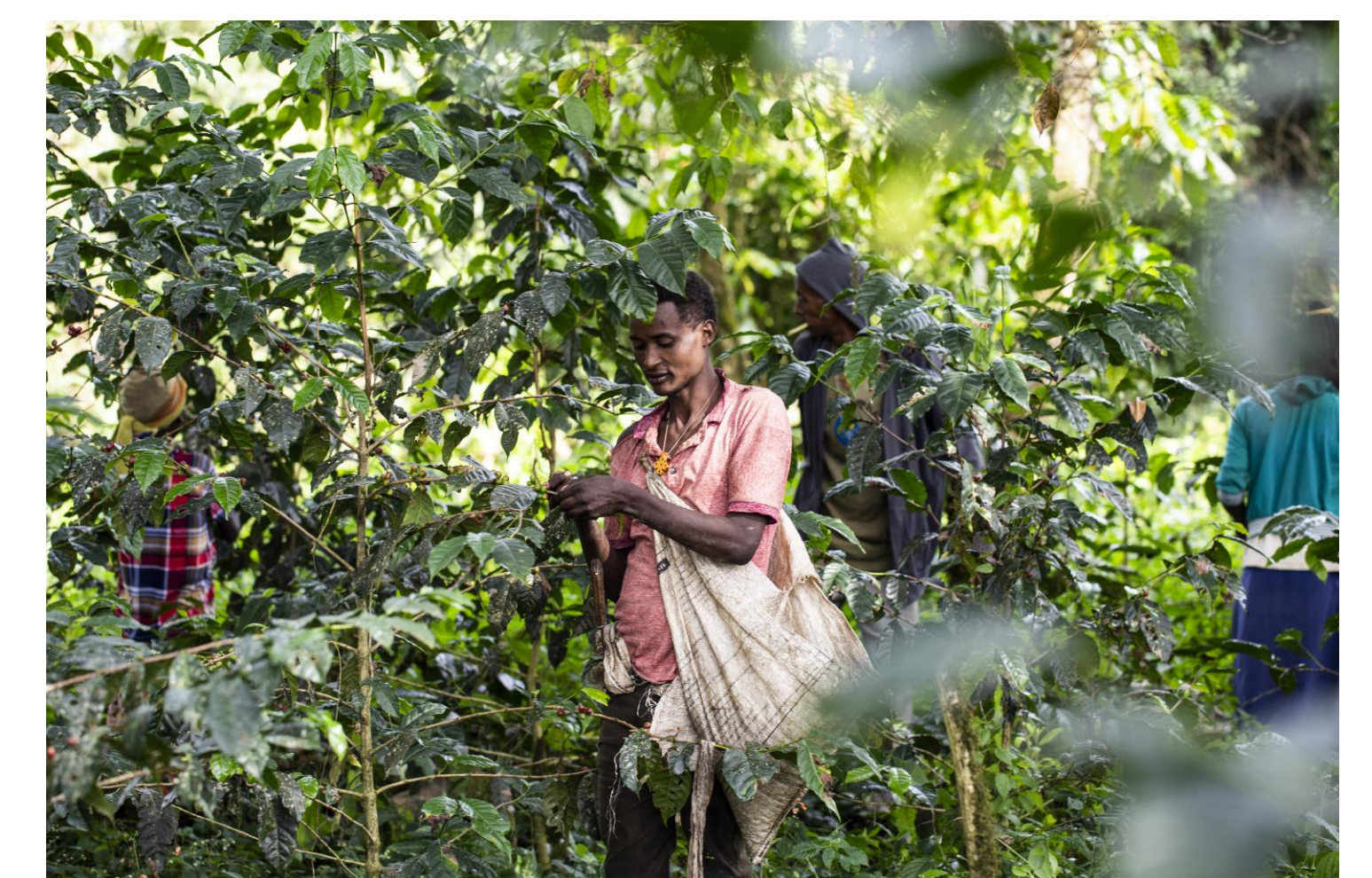
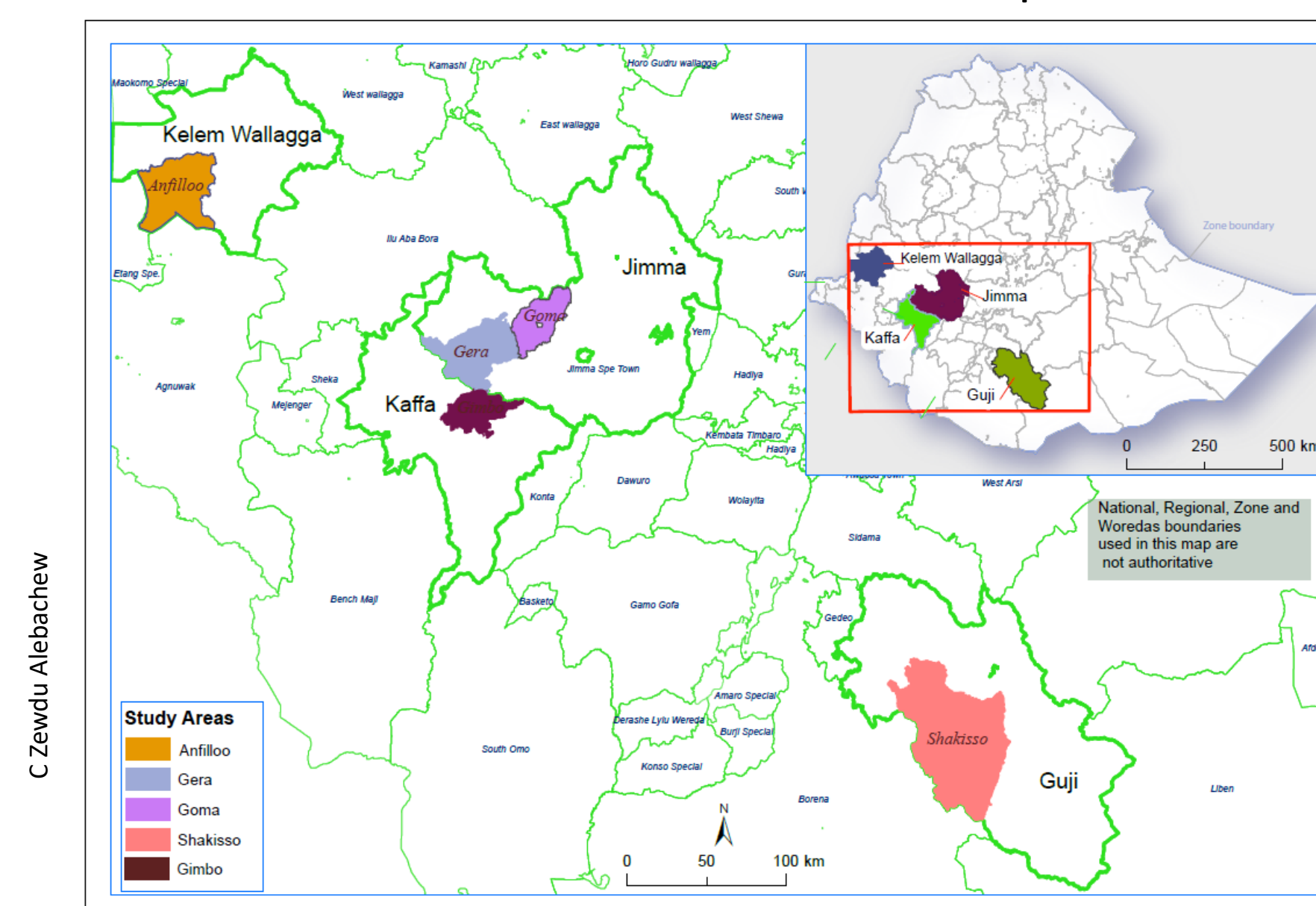


Beds used to dry coffee in Hambela forest, Guji

## 1. A SYSTEM INSPIRED BY THE WILD COFFEE FORESTS

In Ethiopia, which is its native land, coffee originally grew in forests. Wild coffee forests still exist, but farmers are also able to recreate this natural environment by planting coffee trees under the shade of existing forests. These coffee agroforestry practices are passing from generation to generation. This system improves quality by ensuring optimum shade, humidity and soil fertility. Farmers draw on their indigenous knowledge to combine tree species in such a way to maintain optimum conditions for their coffee. The diversity of tree species represented – around 20 - gives a high quality coffee.

Main zones of coffee forests – Ethiopia



People picking coffee in Bonga, Kaffa

## 2. A WAY TO PROTECT FOREST AREAS IN ETHIOPIA



Farmers harvesting coffee in Anfilloo, Wallagga



Old qararo, Dambi Uddo Forest, Guji



Hives and monkey in Goma, Jimma

Coffee production gives these forests an economic dimension and this is a way to protect them. Forests could have been more destroyed if they were not playing a role in coffee sector.

The '*qararo*' (*Pouteria adolfi-friederici*) for example, which is an endemic tree species with strong wood, can be sold for a high price. But farmers maintain this tree because it grows up to 40 meters in height and provides good shade for coffee. Today, these trees are no longer found throughout Ethiopia, although old specimens do still exist in the coffee forests.

These land areas combine coffee production and forest protection.

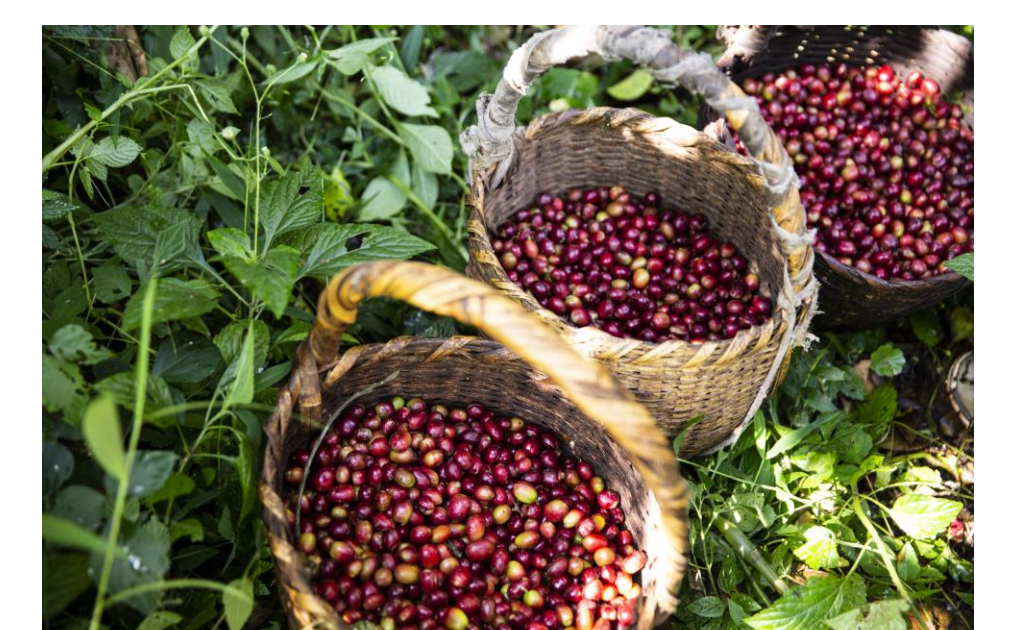
## 3. INCREASE RECOGNITION OF FOREST COFFEES TO PRESERVE THIS AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM

Current developments in rural areas could have an impact on this model. Land pressure could affect this traditional agricultural system. Low coffee prices could weaken the model further. Most of all, some large companies are beginning to turn to these fertile lands to invest in monoculture. The system is supported by the high quality of its unique coffee so promoting forest coffees could be one of the keys to preserve this original model. Moreover it could be a way to mitigate climate change effects on these areas.

**Understanding these systems at local scale give us some keys to face the current challenges of global goals.**



Man picking coffee in Gera, Jimma



Baskets with cherries in Gera, Jimma

Yeti Forest, Anfilloo, Wallagga



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the Belco Ethiopia team and all the people involved in this research. We are especially grateful to the farmers and roasters who answered to our questions.

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