

Editorial



For the first time since we started our work we are confronted with a difficult political situation which is causing interruptions to some of our projects. We have had to pause our project in the Simien Mountains in Ethiopia due to security concerns. Currently it is not clear when we will be able to restart work there. Meanwhile we were happy to learn that the situation is stable in Alem Ketema, so we can continue work there.

Financing our projects is always a challenge. With an aim to achieving a more constant income stream we have entered into several partnerships which we will report on in this issue. We want to extend our partnership network to have more security in financial planning of longer term projects. Around two-thirds of our budget still comes from the private donations which we will continue to depend on.

The series of reports covering administrative aspects of our projects will focus on “Monitoring” in Nepal, a topic where the job is accompanied by a hint of adventure for those who are prepared to work in remote, rural villages in this mountainous country. If you feel the desire to work as a volunteer and learn about our projects first hand, we’d love to hear from you!

Hope you enjoy this issue!

Dr. Frank Dengler, Chairman

Stove-Counter	September 2016	51560 smoke-free stoves in Nepal*
		501 in Kenia
		276 in Ethiopia

*including 7141 rocket stoves for emergency shelters

Hard Times in Ethiopia

Alem Ketema is quiet currently

Desta Andarge, mayor of Alem Ketema, and Dessalegn Wondimneh, secretary of the partnership between Vaterstetten and Alem Ketema were invited to Vaterstetten in Germany. They visited Joachim Wiesmüller in Pfaffenhofen for a day. Joachim Wiesmüller is the Ofenmacher responsible for the project in their town and the district of Merhabete. We had plenty of time to discuss the project, which is making good progress, in detail. After the project meeting we had an invitation from Thomas Herker, the mayor of Pfaffenhofen, to visit the town hall.



Visit Town Hall Pfaffenhofen. Front-Left-to-right.: Joachim Wiesmüller, Frank Dengler, Desta Andarge, Thomas Herker, Dessalegn Wondimneh. Back: King Ludwig 1st

The main topic of the project meeting was the difficult political situation in Ethiopia. There has been rioting for more than a year, starting in the capital Addis Ababa and in Oromia in the south and, in the last few months, also in the Amahara region in the north where our project in Alem Ketema and the Simien Mountains are located. Latent dissatisfaction of large sections of the population with the influential minority of the Tigray drive the rioting. The Tigray, with around 6% of the 100 million population of Ethiopia, occupy almost all positions of power in the country (c.f. [BBC-news](#)). Peaceful protests were broken up forcefully by the police leading to many deaths and injuries. At the start of Octo-

ber the government declared a [state of emergency](#).

We were glad to learn from Desta and Dessalegn that Alem Ketema has been peaceful to date. There have been neither public protests nor violence on the side of the security forces. Both are optimistic that the situation will remain stable. Nonetheless it is not clear how the overall situation will develop. In Bahir Dar, Gonder and Debark near the Simien Mountain National Park a demonstration was ended violently. In discussion with the African Wildlife Foundation we have put the project there on hold.

Frank Dengler

Our Partners

Their increasing important role in the Ofenmacher projects

Up to around three years ago our projects were almost completely financed by private donations. With the increasing growth of stove production in Nepal and the ramp up of the new projects in Ethiopia and Kenya we now need to spend between 120.000 and 150.000 € annually. This has been possible largely thanks to many endowments and companies which now provide around one third of the overall financing. The environmental protection project is also gaining importance for financing new projects.

One article is not sufficient to cover all donors. A complete list of our supporters can be found online on [partner page](#).

In future we expect more support from endowments and public funding to cover our increasing needs. Nonetheless private donors and fundraising events will remain the basis of our work. Therefore we take this opportunity also to thank the many private donors and to stress that that we remain dependent on your generous support. The next newsletter will go into further detail.



Wikinger Reisen

One of the most ecologically sustainable travel organisers in Germany

Wikinger Reisen is a travel organiser based in Hagen. The focus of the company is in active holidays. Responsible use of nature and resources is at the heart of every tour. With this in mind Wikinger Reisen has been a strategic partner of the WWF-Deutschland (World Wide Fund for Nature) for many years.

At the start of 2016 Wikinger Reisen decided to start a project with the Ofenmacher as part of their sustainability strategy. The wide-ranging positive results of the stove building projects provided convincing arguments. Humanitarian aid, reduction of green-house gases, protection of forests and providing employment in developing countries – all this can be achieved together by stove building giving clear arguments to justify the investment in sustainability.

Wikinger Reisen supports Ofenmacher projects in two ways:

- In the coming five years Wikinger Reisen will directly finance altogether 10.000 stoves in Nepal, improving the situation of 10.000 families and generating new jobs. That will also result in an annual reduction of 10.000 tonnes of green-house gases annually, equivalent to the CO₂ emissions of 10.000 cars driving a 6.500km each annually. The wood required for cooking will be reduced by ca. 10.000 tonnes annually, corresponding to 600 fully loaded trucks.
- Additionally, starting in September 2016, all Wikinger Reisen customers will receive an offer to offset the CO₂-emissions of their journeys by closing and therewith cancelling climate protection certificates. During the booking process customers have the possibility to calculate the green-house gas emission which can be directly compensated by closing climate protection certificates managed by the Ofenmacher.

Georg Kraus Stiftung and Brunner Ofenbau

Key supporters of the project in Alem Ketema in Ethiopia

When Wikinger Reisen decided in favour of Ofenmacher, the long lasting cooperation with [Georg Kraus Stiftung \(Endowment\)](#) (GKS) was an important factor. GKS was established by the owners of Wikinger Reisen. The endowment owns 20% of the shares of the travel organiser. The aim of GKS is the support of training projects worldwide especially to provide children, youths and women the chance of a better life. GKS has supported training of Ofenmacher for many years now. The endowment put particular focus on our project in Ethiopia. Thanks to GKS together with Brunner Ofenbau, another company which focuses on stove building in Ethiopia, it has been possible to build up the project in Ethiopia in the last couple of years.

Work on the project began in 2013. The city Alem Katema, a partner city of Vaterstetten near Munich, offered the best condition for the start of a project in a country which was new to us both culturally and in regard to the requirements for stoves.

Many obstacles had to be overcome. A completely new stove, suitable for local cooking needs, had to be designed. Mr. Ulrich Brunner gave us the chance to show him our plans at the very start of the project. Brunner Ofenbau is a family owned business in Lower Bavaria which specialises in the development and production of high-quality heating-elements, chimneys and boilers for wood-burning tiled stoves – a traditional form of heating in Germany.



Alem Ketema

Since environmental protection is a global problem Mr. Brunner spontaneously offered financial support for the stove building project in Ethiopia. Initially master stove maker Christoph Ruopp headed development and Luc Maystadt managed the project ramp-up. Christoph and his colleague Marius Dislich developed a convincing, value-for-money stove which could be built completely using materials available locally. Development was supported by research at the university of Kaiserslauten which measured the efficiency of the

stoves and documented their emissions.

Understanding Ethiopian culture, convincing local politicians and decision makers in rural areas, and setting up an effective project organisation all took time. It is not enough to bring the mechanical skills required for the vocational training. The important thing is that the material learned generates results. Especially in this phase GKS was not only a financial partner but a valued advisor with wide-ranging experience setting up development projects.

In the meantime we are very confident that the project setup which Joachim Wiesmüller took over about six months ago can be completed successfully and the stove production starting with 30 stove makers will be extended steadily. In September alone 50 stoves were built. The stove builders have taken up work again after the break forced on them by the monsoon season.

African Wildlife Foundation - Partner in North-Ethiopia



Simien Mountains National Park

The [Simien Mountains National Park](#) in the north of Ethiopia was created in 1959 and in 1978 was included in the UNESCO-list of world natural heritage sites. The park experienced a decline during years of civil war at the end of the last century. A ten-year plan to restore the park was set up in 2009, a plan in which the [African Wildlife Foundation](#) (AWF) plays a leading role. AWF emerged from African Wildlife Leadership Foundation which was established in 1961. Today it is one of the biggest nature conservation organisations worldwide.

The support of the neighbouring communities is a prerequisite for the successful operation and maintenance of the park. Therefore the AWF launched a Community Program to improve living conditions in the relevant villages. One element of this plan is the installation of stoves which,

at a stroke, improve the health of citizens and protect valuable trees. The stove building, fully financed by the AWF, will be carried out by the Ofenmacher.

Unfortunately the project which had already started is on hold due to the political situation. We hope for stability as soon as possible; so that work can be resumed.

Theo Melcher

The Stove Inspectors

Monitoring in the countryside in Nepal



Tobias Federle

We reported on the monitoring and administration of stoves in the last issue of this newsletter. Basically all stoves are entered in a database. The monitoring team in Kathmandu verifies the database by visits to villages and spot-checks of the stoves built there.

[Tobias Federle](#), the heart of the monitoring team, spends most of his time in Nepal and is responsible for managing the monitoring program. His team consists of his wife Domi and a number of volunteers. The volunteers are Nepalese or foreigners who make the required field visits.

A field visit can last anything from a few days up to two weeks and takes the monitors deep into hard-to-reach hilly areas of Nepal. Monitoring teams of 2 or 3 people usually do long journeys by foot to reach distant villages. Travel with public transport is complicated and sometimes dangerous. Therefore the Monitoring-

Team has a motorbike which can be used to complete journeys quickly and in a safer manner.

Monitoring targets a number of issues. First and foremost it's important to ensure that stoves have really been built as reported. Furthermore the quality of the stoves is checked. Finally feedback is collected from the owners using a standardised questionnaire. So we find out how satisfied people are with their stoves and learn of any problems which we must address. As we visit stoves of differing ages we are slowly building a reliable understanding of the useful potential lifetime of the stoves; something which was not possible to estimate in the past.

With more than 50.000 stoves in the field we cannot visit each and every stove. The monitoring works on samples of around 5% of the installed stoves each year. We check stoves from less experienced stove builders more frequently



Tracks in Nepal



Domi Sherpa during an interview

than those of the older more experienced stove builders. Although novices are supported and monitored by experienced stove builders at the beginning, it's important for us to get an independent view on the quality of their work.

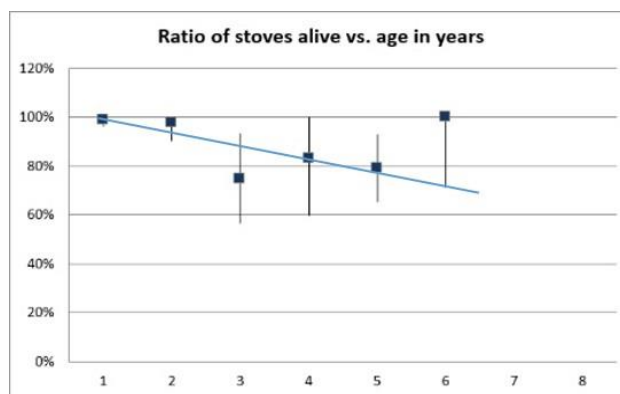
When teams return from their strenuous field trips, their work is not over. The results are summarised in a report and the feedback received is copied into the database. We use this information to generate statistics, like the stove lifetime analysis below.

With this monitoring we fulfil the Gold Standard foundation's requirements for the proof of stoves installed in the field and set the foundation of is-

suance of the emission certificates in the [environmental protection project](#).

Field workers in Nepal have to do a hard job without many of the comforts which they are used to at home. On the other hand they have a unique possibility to see Nepalese rural life first hand and meet people who the average tourist would never have a chance of seeing. Furthermore there is plenty of time to enjoy the scenic beauty of Nepal.

Frank Dengler



Lifetime analysis of stoves

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Editor Frank Dengler
Authors Theo Melcher, Frank Dengler
Publisher Die Ofenmacher e. V., Euckenstr. 1 b, 81369 München
Internet <http://www.ofenmacher.org/welcome>
Email info@ofenmacher.org
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Account IBAN: DE56701500001001247517, BIC: SSKMDEMM, Stadtparkasse München