

Editorial



The pilot stoves in the Simien Mountains in Ethiopia are ready. You will find a report on them in this issue. Field results are currently being analyzed. The results to date are encouraging, so encouraging in fact, that we expect to start the next phase of the project in autumn.

Now that summer has arrived it's time for walkers to get into their boots. Every two years Wikingen Reisen organizes a charity walking marathon. The proceeds were donated to the Ofenmacher this year. Our thanks go to the organizers and the 1200(!) walkers who participated and look forward to the results in Alem Ketema, the destination of the donation.

We are happy to report on another success in the climate protection project: the city of Pfaffenhofen on the Ilm entered into a partnership with us for the next two years. In this time the CO₂-emissions resulting from heating for public buildings will be offset with our certificates.

We are proud to be receiving support from public services. Our work has also been recognized by the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development which supported stove building in Nepal with a donation of 36,000€.

In case you are spending your vacations in Northern Germany this year: you should plan a visit to the island of Pellworm. You can visit a clay oven, the Nepalese model, and if you're lucky even see how it is used to cook traditional Nepalese Dal Bhat.

The Ofenmacher wish you a sunny summer and lots of pleasure reading our newsletter.

Dr. Frank Dengler, Chairman

Stove Counter May 2017

57894 smoke-free stoves in Nepal*

579 in Kenya

810 in Ethiopia

*including 7141 Rocket Stoves for emergency accommodation

New Ofenmacher Videos auf Youtube

[See how the pilot stoves in Simien Mountains were received](#)



Event Notifications

"Up-cycling" with Jutta Bernklau

A demonstration by Jutta Bernklau in which you can participate

Ms. Bernklau supports the Ofenmacher with this event; so you can do two good things at the same time. Ms. Bernklau writes:

Upcycling is in! I take great pleasure in making useful things out of stuff which would otherwise end up in the rubbish bin. For the last couple of years, for instance, I have been making bags, waste baskets and other containers out of old Tetrapaks. The bags are very stable and eye-catching; lots of people ask me about them. That gave me the idea to make bags for other people and to offer a workshop at the Garden Show in Pfaffenhofen. 100% of the proceeds generated by the workshop will be donated to the Ofenmacher. I am happy to offer the workshop and look forward to your participation and your help providing smoke-free stoves, a stepping stone to a simpler life, in Nepal, Kenya and Ethiopia. A one Euro donation already covers ten percent of the cost of a stove.

Have fun, up-cycling!

Jutta Bernklau

Dates: 19th June, 13th July und 27th July, between 14:00 – 17:00

Location: Garden Show Pfaffenhofen, Forum im Bürgerpark

Afrikafest Ingolstadt

Die Ofenmacher are represented this year with a stand at the Afrikafest in Ingolstadt. There are live music, African food, children's program, crafts ... and us. We are looking forward to your coming.

Date: 24th June, between 10:00 – 22:30

Location: Ingolstadt Rathausplatz, Moritzstraße, Ludwigstraße

Clay-Stoves in the Mountains

Phase 2 of the projekt in the Simien Moutains

Katharina and I were in Ethiopia for four weeks in February and March this year to lead the pilot phase of the project in the Simien Mountains. Debarq, the provincial capital, was our base for daily tours to villages around the national park.

The Simien Mountains are part of an impressive mountain range in northern Ethiopia. At 4533m the peak of "Ras Daschen" is the highest in Ethiopia and the seventh highest in Africa. The national park was created in the Simien Mountains in 1959 to protect endemic plant and animal species. It was declared a world natural heritage site by UNESCO in 1978 and in 1996 classified as endangered by UNESCO. Since 2009 the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) has been a major force behind a program to save the park. Our stove project is part of the AWF financed community program to directly benefit those living in and around the park, helping to motivate them to support the aims of the park.



Simien Mountains



House in Milligebssa, Simien Mountains

The communities around the park are possibly the poorest and most remote in Ethiopia. With altitudes of up to 3500m crop yields are low. Grazing land is nearly barren; so cattle are not really an option. The only tarred road connects Debarq with the south of the country. Many villages are several days' walk from the road. Life is simple there and continues more-or-less unchanged as it was hundreds of years ago.

The "Chigr Fechi" stove design has already proved its worth in Alem Ketema. Nonetheless we are sticking to standard project processes and are carrying out a pilot phase in the Simien Mountains before we start training the first local stove makers and starting stove production in large numbers. Most of the villages near the park are at altitudes between 3000m and 4000m. House design also differs significantly from the houses in the lower altitude of Alem Ketema.



Genet und Yeshwa building a stove



Fixing the Outlet

In Alem Ketema several experienced stove makers work for us in the meantime. We asked two of them, Genet Mekeberaw and Yeshewatsehay Delelegn (Yeshwa), to help us with the pilot stoves. They were accompanied by Abebaw Birhanu our co-ordinator in Alem Ketema. This was the first time that Genet and Yeshwa had been away from home for four weeks. They were surely homesick from time-to-time but they stayed focused on building the pilot stoves. Thanks to their exemplary work we were able to complete our challenging program in time.

Maru Biadgelen Endalew, head of the park office, assigned one employee, Belayneh Abebe, for the on-site organisation of the project. Once the stoves have been in use for some time, the owners will be regularly contacted and questioned to help us gain experience on the stoves. Belayneh will take care to ensure that this task is completed.



Visiting a potter along with Belayneh (left)
How should the outlet look?

We chose three villages as sites for the pilot stoves. Furthermore a stove was installed in the kitchen of Chennek camp, one of the tourist sites in the park; so we hope to find out how the stoves work when used intensively. We employed one woman and three men in the villages, (Aster, Mulualem, Alkadir and Tikabu), to help us transporting material, mixing clay and making clay bricks.

We soon found potters to help making the outlets. The Met'ad, the plate on which Injera is backed is also earthenware as are coffee pots

and other cooking pots. Pottery has deep roots in Amhara. Nonetheless it took a lot of discussion and several attempts till the potters managed to make the outlets in the form that we need.



Many people came to see what we were doing



a chance for us to explain

Clay can be found in every village; though we sometimes had to search hard with the villager to find good quality clay. People carried the clay to the villages on their shoulders; or occasionally with donkeys. Finding good sand was more of a challenge. Sand is plentiful in the river

beds in the valleys but that is a long way from the villages. This logistic problem will be a challenge as it makes the stoves more expensive.

By the end of March Genet and Yeshwa had built twelve stoves (see [video](#)), seven of which we could already officially sign off for use. The other five were still drying when we had to leave and will be officially signed off by Belayneh. The “first firing” is a big event for the stove owners and their neighbours. People are always amazed when the fire doesn’t fill the room with smoke. The clouds of smoke leaving the vent almost always give rise to “Ohs” and “Ahs”.



Cooking on the new stove



Smoke leaving through the outlet

It’s a big surprise when people learn that they can cook without the smoke which has plagued them and their families for generations. The idea of a outlet or a chimney is new and we are often thanked for sharing the concept.

In the meantime Belayneh has already complete two of three feedback rounds. The results are positive across the board; so we are confident that we will be able to start the next phase of the project in autumn. That is when the first stove makers in the Simien Mountains will receive their training and the first village will be kitted out with new stoves.

Frank Dengler

Every step helps!

1 200 nature-lovers walked the Wikingers-Marathon in Hagen to support the Ofenmacher in Ethiopia



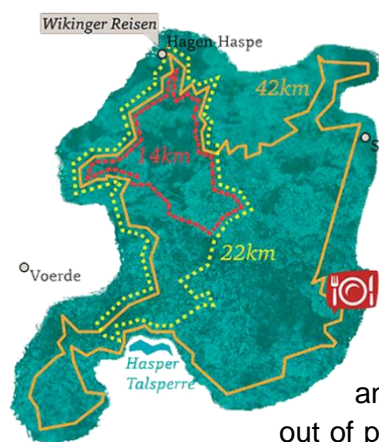
The Wikingers-Marathon on May 20th broke all records: 1 200 nature lovers walked around Hagen for a good cause. The marathon is organised every two years by Wikingers-Reisen and donates the proceeds each to a different charity supported by the Georg-Kraus-Foundation (German: Georg-Kraus-Stiftung or GKS). [This time the proceeds went to the Ofenmacher's Ethiopia project](#). “Every participant sponsors training to help people learn to make safe clay cooking stoves”, explained Daniel Kraus, Managing Director of Wikingers-Reisen.

1 200 participants is an enormous increase versus the round 800 participants in 2015. Even bad weather on the day preceding the marathon and low temperatures did not keep people from participating.



Every participant can choose a distance of 14, 22 or 42km. That determines the starting fee which is donated to charity. Earning from food and drinks consumed by the participants was also donated. The complete catering was organized by employees of Wiking-Reisen and GKS as voluntary, unsalaried work.

Altogether the donations came to €12,284.40 Euro, a sum which GKS even rounded up to €20,000; many thanks! Wiking-Reisen and GKS really helped us make a big step forward in our stove project in Ethiopia.



Wiking-Reisen has been an important partner for the Ofenmacher since 2014. The company, which was founded in 1969, specializes in adventure tours tailored for individuals or groups. Wiking-Reisen supports the Ofenmacher directly by calculating CO₂-footprint of a trip and offering customers the chance to offset this by purchasing certificates from the Ofenmacher.

The founder of Wiking-Reisen Hans-Georg Kraus also founded the GKS in 1996; an organization which supports social and local projects based on the idea that “Schooling is the best way out of poverty”. GKS supports small projects which can be seen to help the people that they should; just like our stove project in Ethiopia.

The Ofenmacher were on site to support during the event. Joachim Wiesmüller represented us at a booth together with GKS; so interested participants could learn about our project first hand. The local radio station Hagen also broadcast [report about the marathon and our project in Ethiopia](#). So the marathon helped with publicity concerning the Ofenmacher as well as with donations.

A big thank you for the recognition by, long-term support and large donation from Wiking-Reisen and the GKS!

Joachim Wiesmüller

First Island Stove

Construction of a demonstration stove on Pellworm



Silke makes sure that I am doing everything correctly

The island of Pellworm located in the mud flats of Nordfriesland [has been active for years](#), promoting the use of regenerative energy. So it is fitting that the island now has an energy saving stove in the Asian style. Katharina and I were there in May to install this technology which is new in North Germany.

Christa Drigalla, Section Manager for Nepal, has been our ambassador on the island since moving there. Time and again she was asked where it is possible to see a stove in use. She got together with Silke Zetl, a teacher and a farmer on the island; to

build the first and to date only Chulo north of 50 degrees of latitude on the Zetl's farm..

When we arrived on the island at the end of April everything was ready for us to start work. The clay bricks were dry and a solid concrete base had been prepared for the stove; so the stove could be built, plastered and the cooking pots fitted in a single day.

The reliable North-Sea-Wind helped ensure that the stove dried quickly; and we could light the first small test fire after only a week. Our stove was on its best behavior and drew all the smoke away through the chimney.



Clean chimney?



First firing: all ok!

In the meantime the Zetls have built a hut around the oven to protect it from the elements. Now everything is ready; so visitors whether islanders and tourists, can experience first-hand how a Nepalese clay stove works and how to prepare dal bhat on it.

Thanks to the Zetls for giving our clay stove a home on Pellworm. Visitors can reach Silke by phone under +49-

4844-230 to register a visit. Anyone wishing to can stay for longer as the Zetls also have holiday flats - now with an additional attraction!



Safe and sound

Frank Dengler

With State Support

The Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (German acronym BMZ) supports stove construction in Nepal

It was a lot of work but it was worth it. This year, for the first time, our stove building in Nepal is supported by German state funding. The support project of the BMZ has been up and running since April 2017 in four selected communities, called Village Development Committees (VDCs), in the district of Pyuthan. By the end of 2017 around 4500 clay stoves will be built there. That is one of the measures which Swastha Chulo Nepal planned in Pyuthan for this year. Nonetheless it is being executed and tracked as a separate project. The cost is expected to be around €48 000, 75% of which is sponsored by the German government.



Many hurdles had to be overcome to achieve this. The BMZ sponsors projects which provide lasting improvement to the social or ecological situation of poor communities in developing countries.

Private organizations have to prove that they fulfil the prerequisites for sponsoring. That includes documentation of the aims of the organisation as

well as its charitable, not-for-profit nature. Furthermore the organization must have at least three years' experience. After the successful evaluation the way was open for the Ofenmacher to apply for sponsoring. A first project can be sponsored at most for €50 000 and must be completely executed within a year. The Ofenmacher applied for a project with Bengo, the organization which supports private organizations in their development projects, in September 2016.

Initially the project was planned to start at the beginning of 2017 but several rounds of review and rework took more time than planned; so the project was started only in April. By the end of March all the prerequisites had been met and we received a green light. The board of Ofenmacher and Swastha Chulo in Nepal were overjoyed at receiving state-recognition for their work.

Now our task is to build stoves whilst carefully tracking project receipts and payments independent of the stove building work; as the BMZ also has very strict accounting practices.

Reinhard Hallermayer

Pfaffenhofens Local Authorities have CO₂-neutral Heating

Multi-year partnership with Pfaffenhofen an der Ilm



City Council meeting on 4th May 2017 – from the left: Andreas Herschmann, Mayor Thomas Herker, Joachim Wiesmüller, Dr. Reinhard Hallermayer

The town of Pfaffenhofen agrees a partnership with “Die Ofenmacher e.V.”. That was decided unanimously by the town council during their meeting on May 4th after a presentation by the Ofenmacher about their work and their organization (see the German-language [video of the council meeting](#); see agenda point 4). Under this agreement the town of Pfaffenhofen will offset the CO₂-emissions resulting from heating of thirty town buildings with a donation to the Ofenmacher specifically earmarked for stove building. The partnership is initially agreed to be valid for 2017 and 2018.

“The positive results of the exemplary work done by the Ofenmacher in developing countries fits exactly into our philosophy in Pfaffenhofen. That is why I fully support this project.”, explained Thomas Herker, Mayor of Pfaffenhofen.

First contact with the Ofenmacher was in October of 2016 when Desta Andarge, Mayor of the central Ethiopian town of Alem Katema, visited Thomas Herker together with Dr. Frank Dengler and Joachim Wiesmüller of the Ofenmacher (see “Chulo-Herald”, Issue 13, October 2016).



The town’s contribution to the project was a result of the climate protection initiative which was signed in 2013 with the aim of halving the per-head CO₂-emission by 2030.

This was the first binding partnership between the Ofenmacher and a town or commune. The partnership shows the attraction and the importance of the climate protection projects of the Ofenmacher. With this partnership the town is able to offset CO₂-emissions which cannot be avoided whilst

at the same time providing humanitarian support.

The Chulo-Herald

Issue 15, June 2017



All donations from the town of Pfaffenhofen within this partnership will be used for the setup and expansion of stove-building in Ethiopia.

Joachim Wiesmüller

See too: [Report of the Pfaffenhofener Kurier of May 5th \(in German\)](#)

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