WeForest in Ethiopia
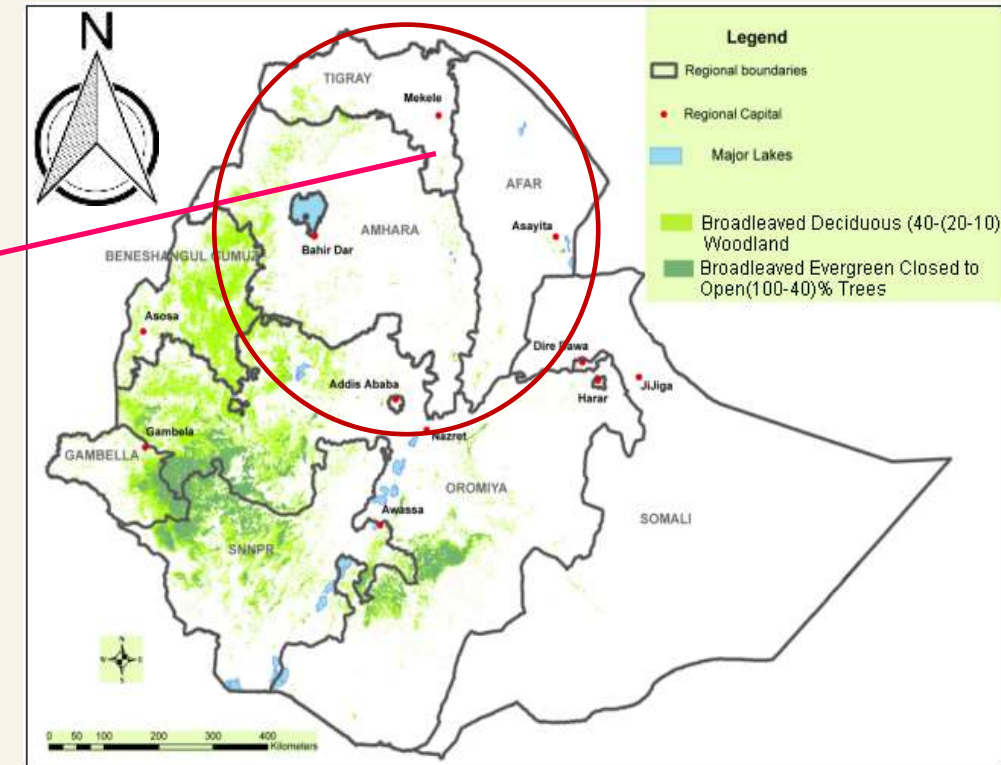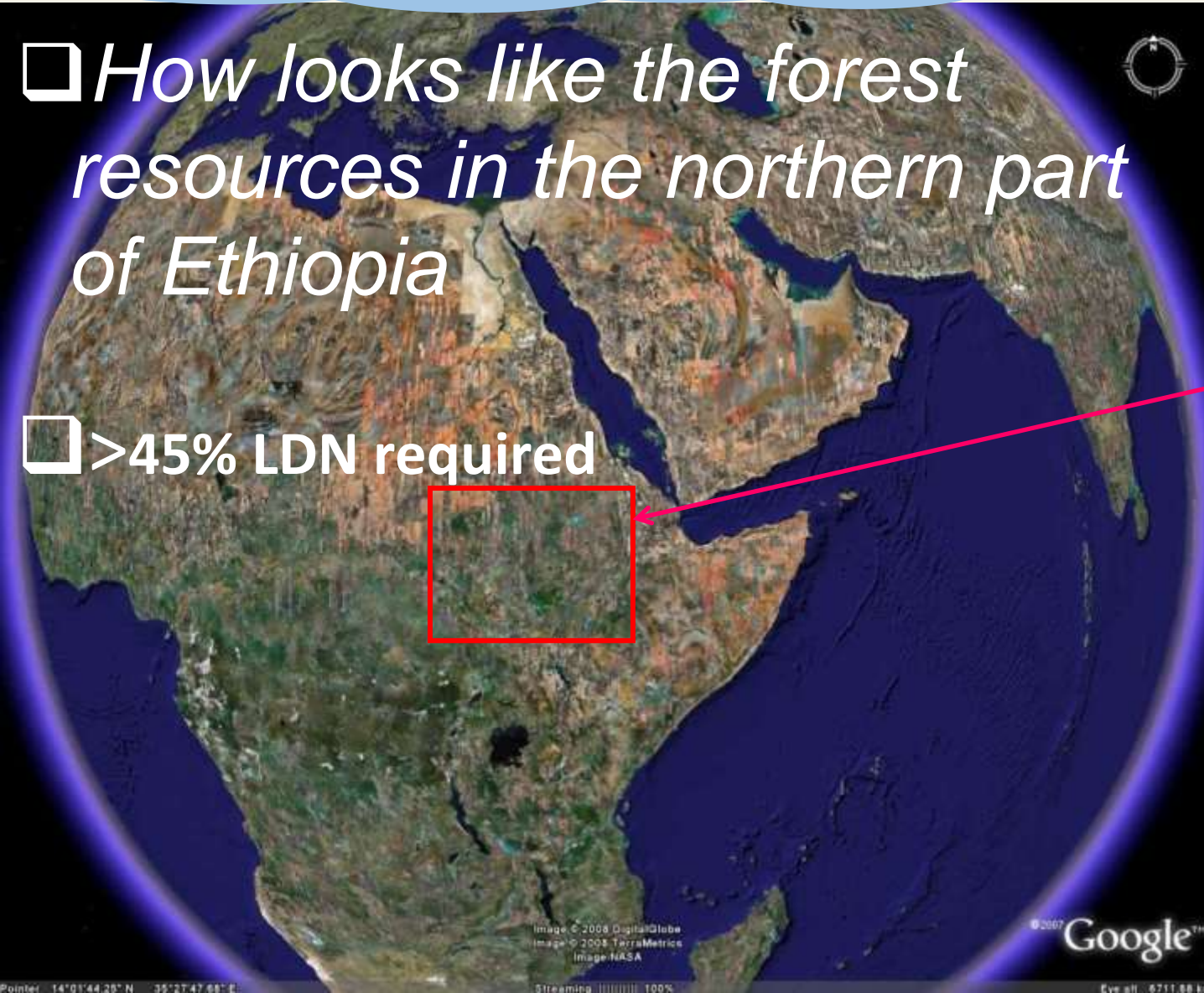
Where we are making a desert belt and breaking the vicious cycle of Poverty

By: Aklilu Negussie; WeForest
April 8, 2021
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

WeForest
Making Earth Cooler

WeForest started its challenge from the North

□ *How looks like the forest resources in the northern part of Ethiopia*

□ **>45% LDN required**

Forest and wood land cover of Ethiopia 2009 (Winberg, 2010)

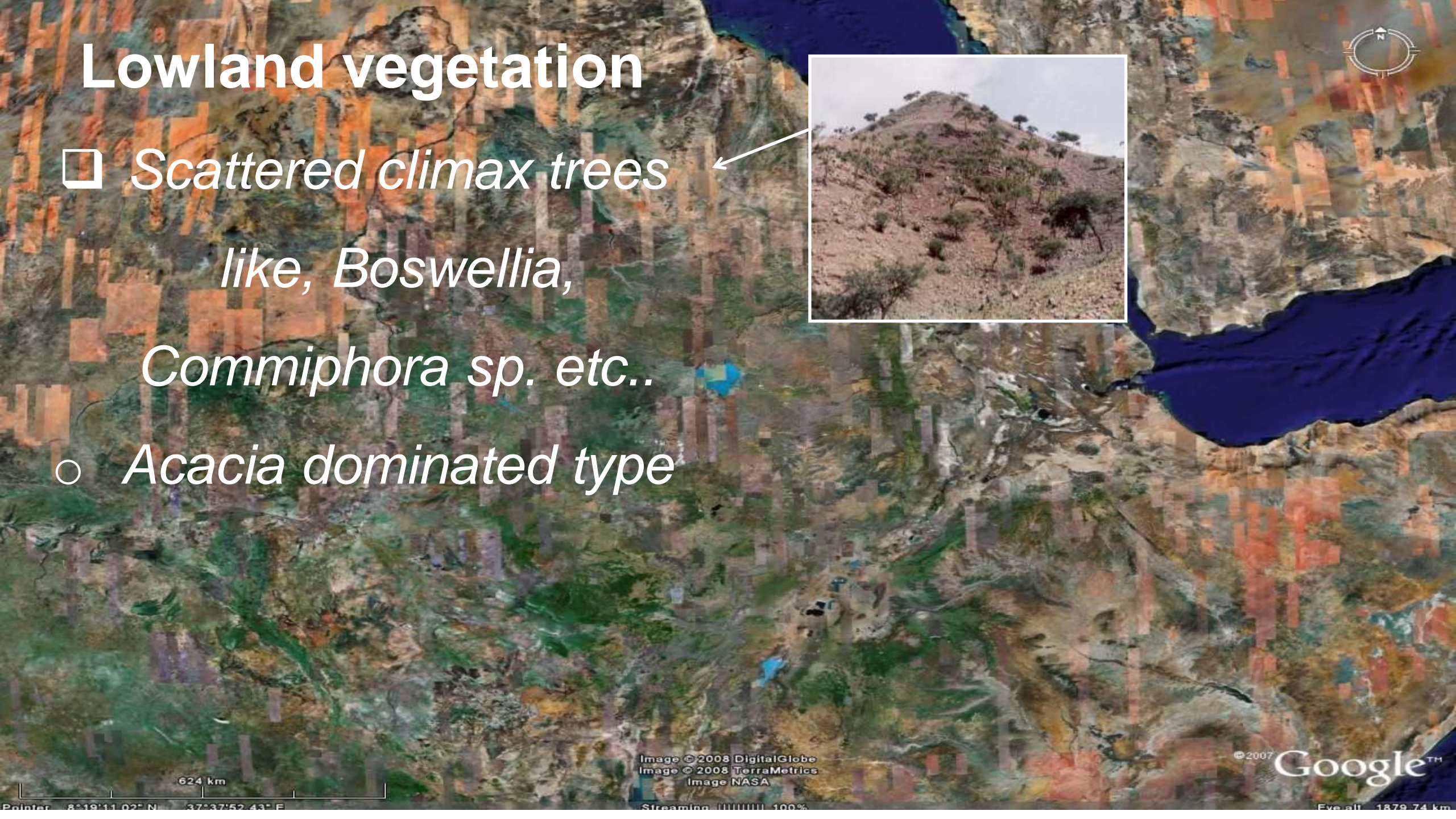*How looks like the forest resources in the northern Ethiopia*

Degraded Exclosure

Fragmented Old Forest

Lowland vegetation

☐ *Scattered climax trees*

   like, Boswellia,

   Commiphora sp. etc..
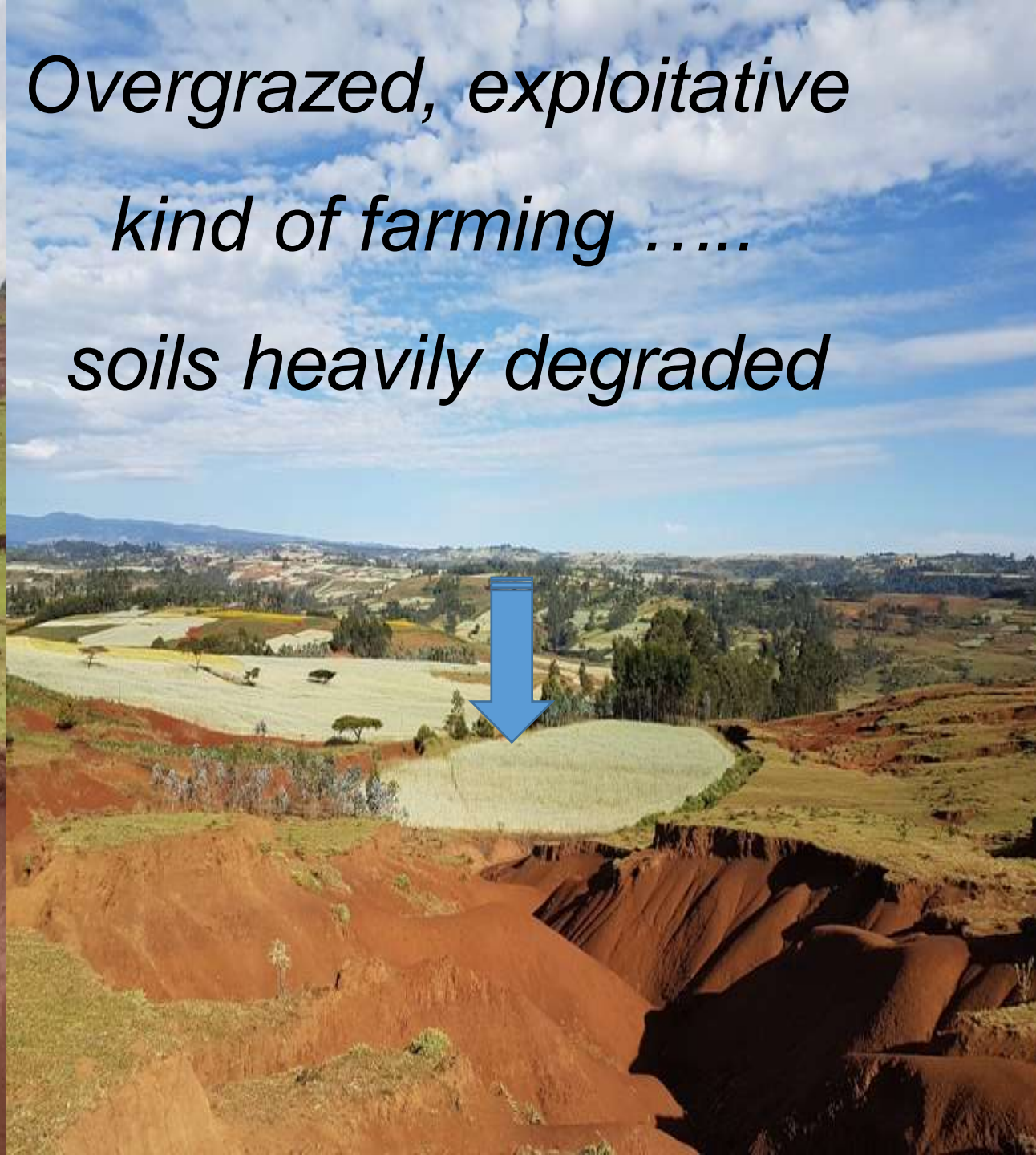
○ *Acacia dominated type*
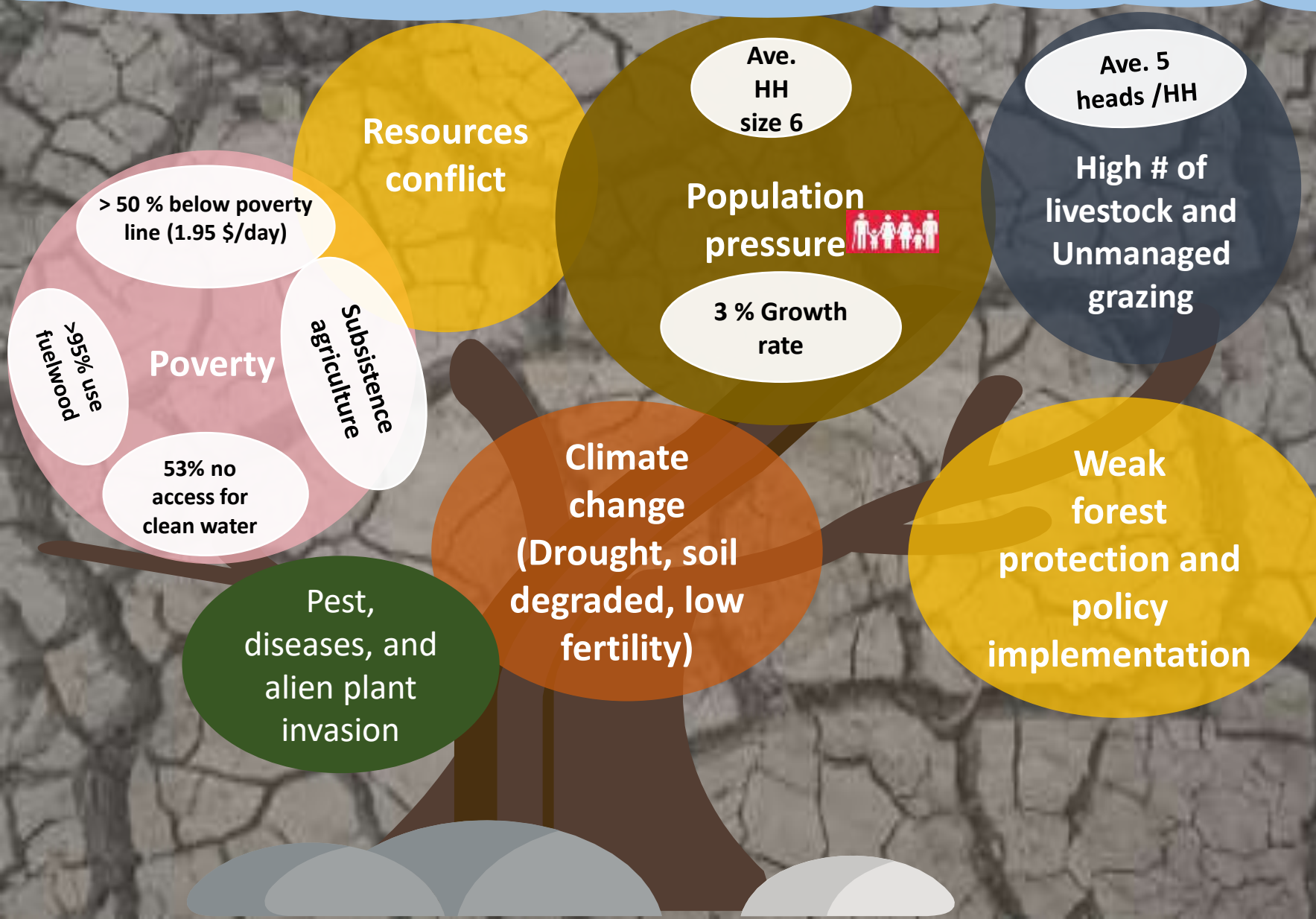
On the edge of the desert

Great green wall

Overgrazed, exploitative kind of farming …..

soils heavily degraded

Socio-economic status of the regions

Poverty
- > 50 % below poverty line (1.95 $/day)
- >95% use fuelwood
- Subsistence agriculture
- 53% no access for clean water

Resources conflict

Population pressure
- Ave. HH size 6
- 3 % Growth rate

High # of livestock and Unmanaged grazing
- Ave. 5 heads /HH

Pest, diseases, and alien plant invasion

Climate change (Drought, soil degraded, low fertility)

Weak forest protection and policy implementation

If no action....
deforestation and the vicious poverty cycle will continue ....
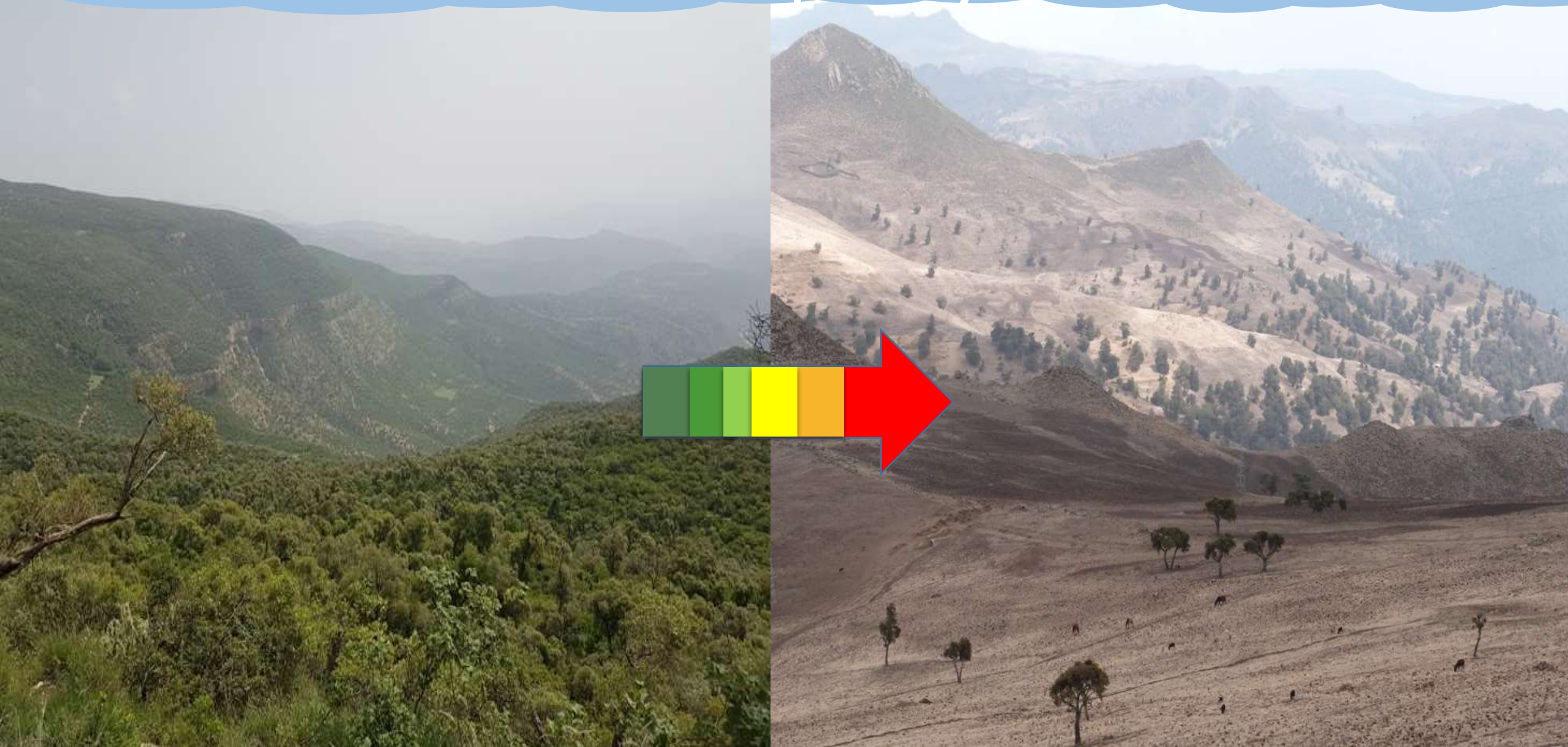
Rift Valley Dry Afromontane forest restoration (Tigray and Afar)

- Over 6,000 ha restored between 2018 and 2020
- Impacting up to 154,000 ha
- 5.6 million trees planted and ANR managed
- HH benefited= 4921/1155 F
- Sustainable income =1952/1155 F

Exclosure management

- 56 ha restored
- Impacting 7456 ha
- 44,382 trees planted
- HH benefited 729/289 F
- Sustainable income=65/35 F

Stop land Degradation and soil erosion

- Over 1100 ha restored
- Impacting Over 46,00 ha
- Over 2.1 million trees planted
- HH benefited 4172/487 F;
- Alternative income 3310/380 F

Afar

Tigray

Amhara
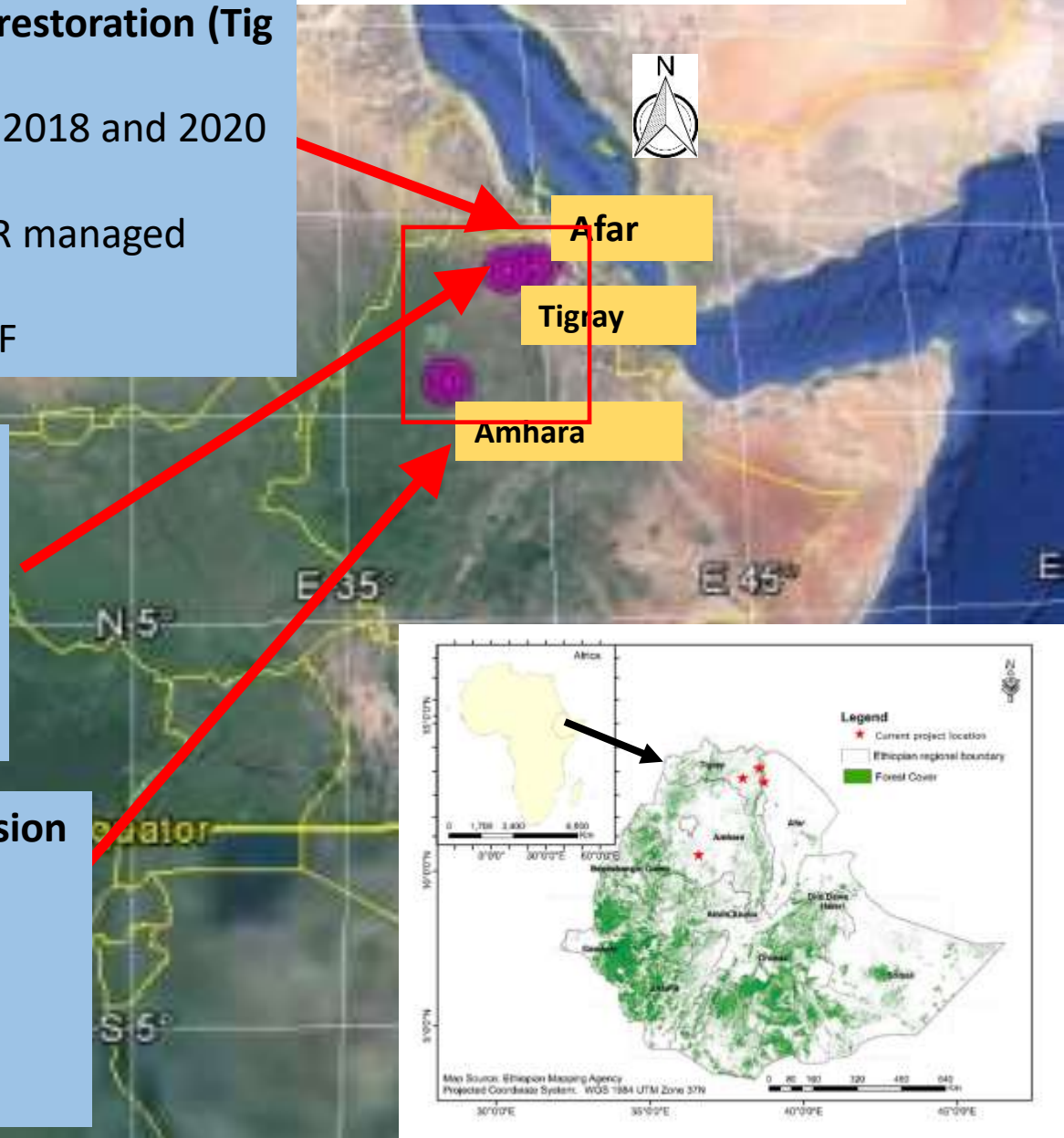
Our major guilding principles we follow in all projects

❑ *We call them our 13 major rules in all our FLR programs*

1. Protect the existing forests

2. Putting local people at the heart of the project and engage stakeholders

3. FLR should be holistic

FLR should be holistic to solve the root cause pro-blems
- ❑ Planting
- ❑ Livelihood
- ❑ Capacity building

4. Restore multiple functions for multiple benefits

5. Take the advantage of the natural regrowth whenever possible

❑FLR should be about several goals: Combat climate change, improving conservation and ecosystem services such as water, providing economic and cultural benefits…

Assisted natural regeneration

❑ Apply different forest management practices

❑ Pruning, avoiding weeds,…..

6. Select the right landuse during reforestation

❑ Not all land without trees is suitable for tree-planting. Plant trees in areas that were historically forested but have become degraded

❑ E.g. changing grasslands ecosystem will destroy the long-lived relationships between plants and animals.

7. Select the right tree species and plant the right way

❑ Mixture of tree species advisable including rare tree species

❑ Plant trees resilient to adopt the changing climate

❑ Avoiding trees that might become invasive

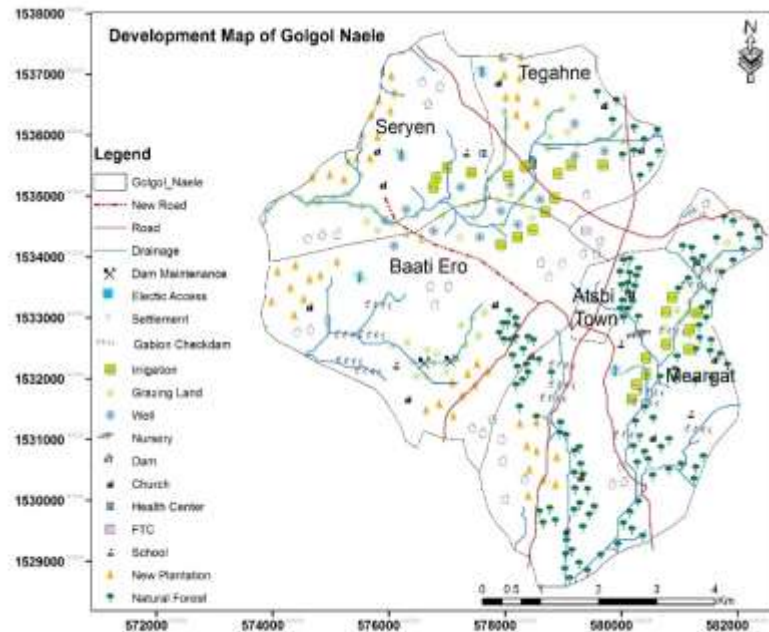❑ Plant at the right depth and spacing

8. Learn by doing and monitor the change

- ❑ Combine scientific knowledge with local knowledge
- ❑ Baseline (Permanent monitoring plots, Socio-economic info…)
- ❑ Monitor the change with local people

Before After
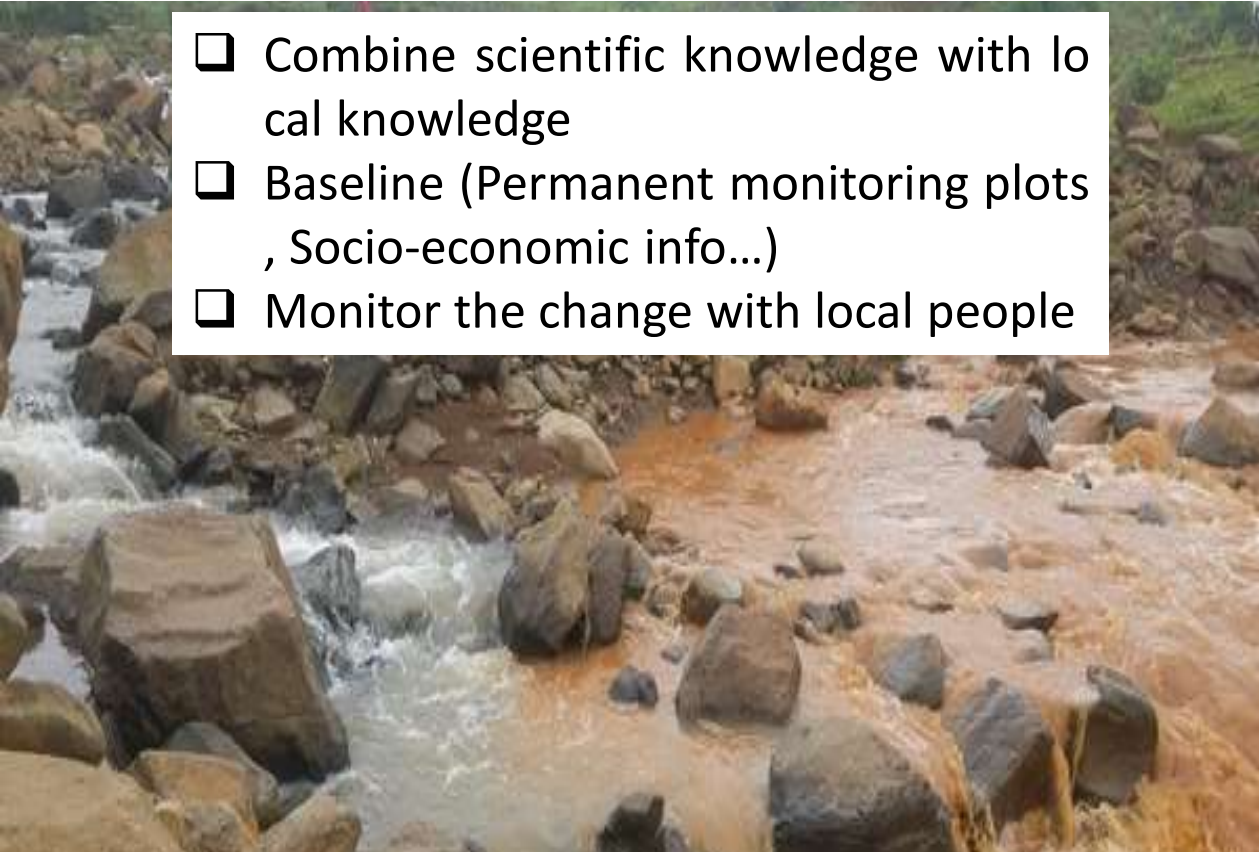
9. Plan ahead

Plan where to plant, how to source seeds or trees, working with local people.

10. Make it pay

- Let's think beyond timber, ……
- Promoting Non-Timber Forest Products (e.g, honey; agroforestry…etc)
- Carbon credits.

Makeleche and her family have started harvesting honey; Just the first harvest 13 kg/hive (3 hives total WF project provided)

Some farmers like Fere de Yehune in Machakel district, already earning about 188 USD every 2 months from his 0.125 ha Agroforestry field

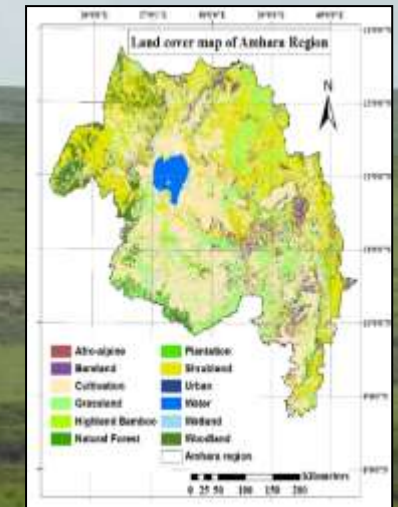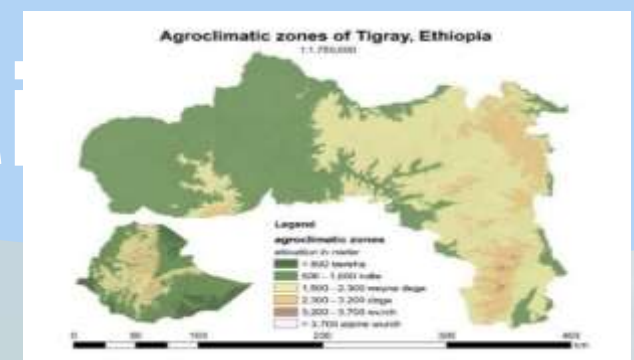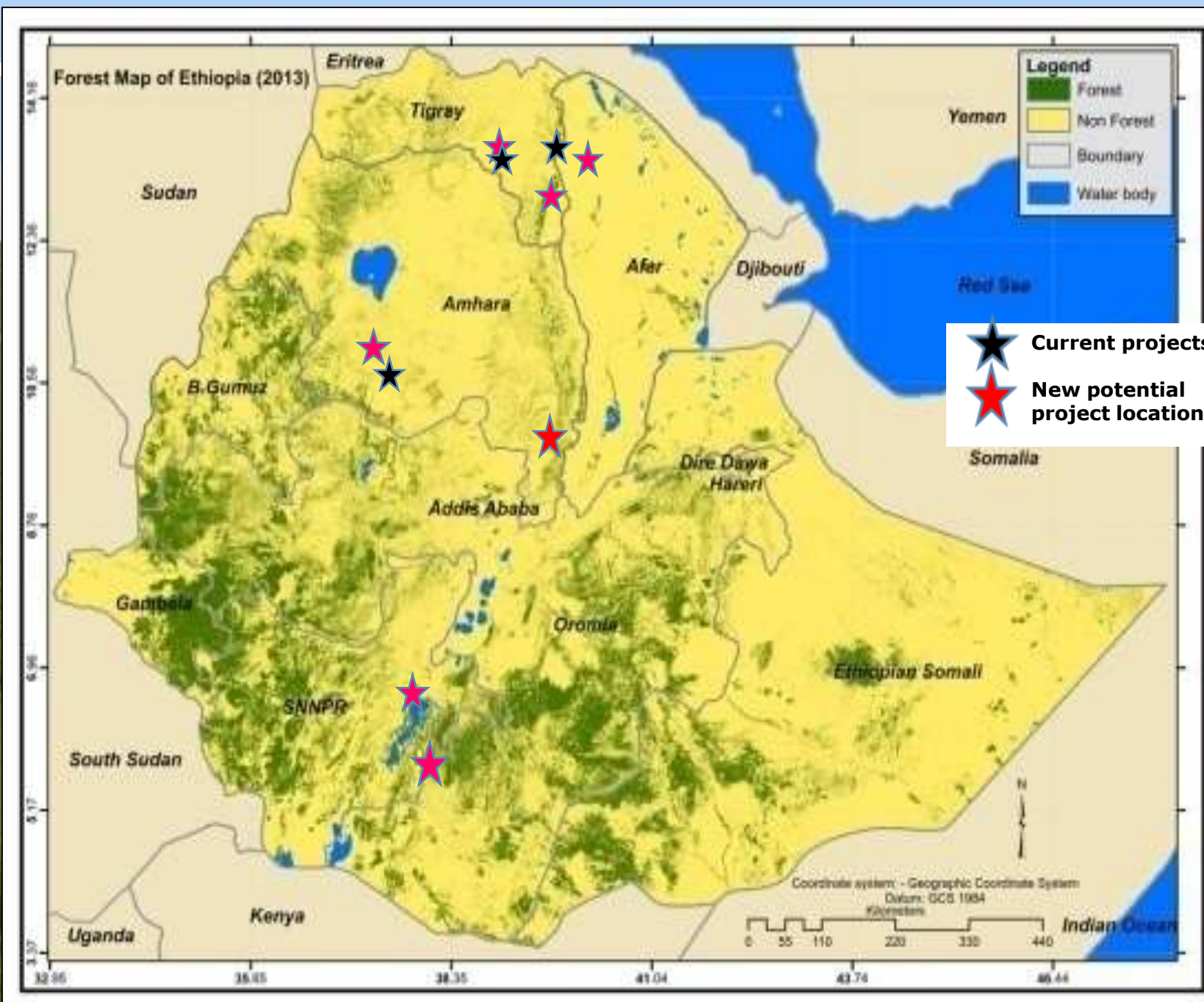# 11. Take the whole landscape approach

❑From plot level to the larger watershed or the whole landscape level

12. Stay longterm

❑Restoring and maintaining a forests takes decades. Ten year a minimum in our experience

Current projects

New potential project locations

Local and International Partners

Thank you