Access and Benefit Sharing initiatives in Ethiopia: The case of *Aloe*

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FEDERAL NEGARITGAZETA

OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

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13th Year No.13
ADDIS ABABA- 27th February , 2006

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15th Year No. 67
ADDIS ABABA 9th November 2009

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Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

I. Ethiopia the home of Teff */Eragrostis tef/*

the ultimate gluten free cereal

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

•2. *Vernonia galamensis*/ASTERACEAE (የግራዋ ቤተሰብ)

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

3. *Aloe debrana* /ALOACEAE (ፊት)

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

4. *Osyris quadripartita*/SANTAlACFAE (ቀረጥ)

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

5. *Dichrostachys cinerea* /FABACEAE (ኽ

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

5. *Dichrostachys cinerea* /FABACEAE (ኽ

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

5. *Dichrostachys cinerea* /FABACEAE (ኽ

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

•6. *Withania somnifera*/SOLANAC

Accessed Genetic Resources in Ethiopia

•*6. Withania somnifera*/SOLANACEAE (*

The case of Aloe

- The G-7 Trading and Industry PLC has privatized both the
  - Ethiopian Fiber Products and
  - Meher Fiber Products Factories which were previously owned by the Ethiopian Government.

- The company produces jute sacks for packing
  - coffee,
  - cereals and
  - oil seeds.
- The company uses batching oils on raw fibers which contain certain amount of hydrocarbon minerals.

- However, the use of mineral-oil based batching in the process of manufacturing jute bags used for packaging of food grade materials had been a matter of concern for the final consumers due to alleged and possible hydrocarbon contamination of the bags.

- In order to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of all concerns
- The International Jute Council (IJC) set standard-98/01 where the toxic unsaponifiables should be less than 1250 mg/kg in jute bags.

- The situation in the Ethiopian
  - in jute bags 20,723.30 mg/kg and
  - in the batching oil itself were about 868,786.4 mg/kg

- The company was engaged in replacing the batching oil with naturally earned oils from *Aloe* species that will be collected from the wild stand

- *Aloe* species are succulent plants that mainly grow in the wild in East Africa.

- The genus, which includes about 360 species, has its main distribution in Africa south of the Sahara, including Madagascar and Mascarenes

- There are about 46 *Aloe* species in Ethiopia of which 24 are endemic

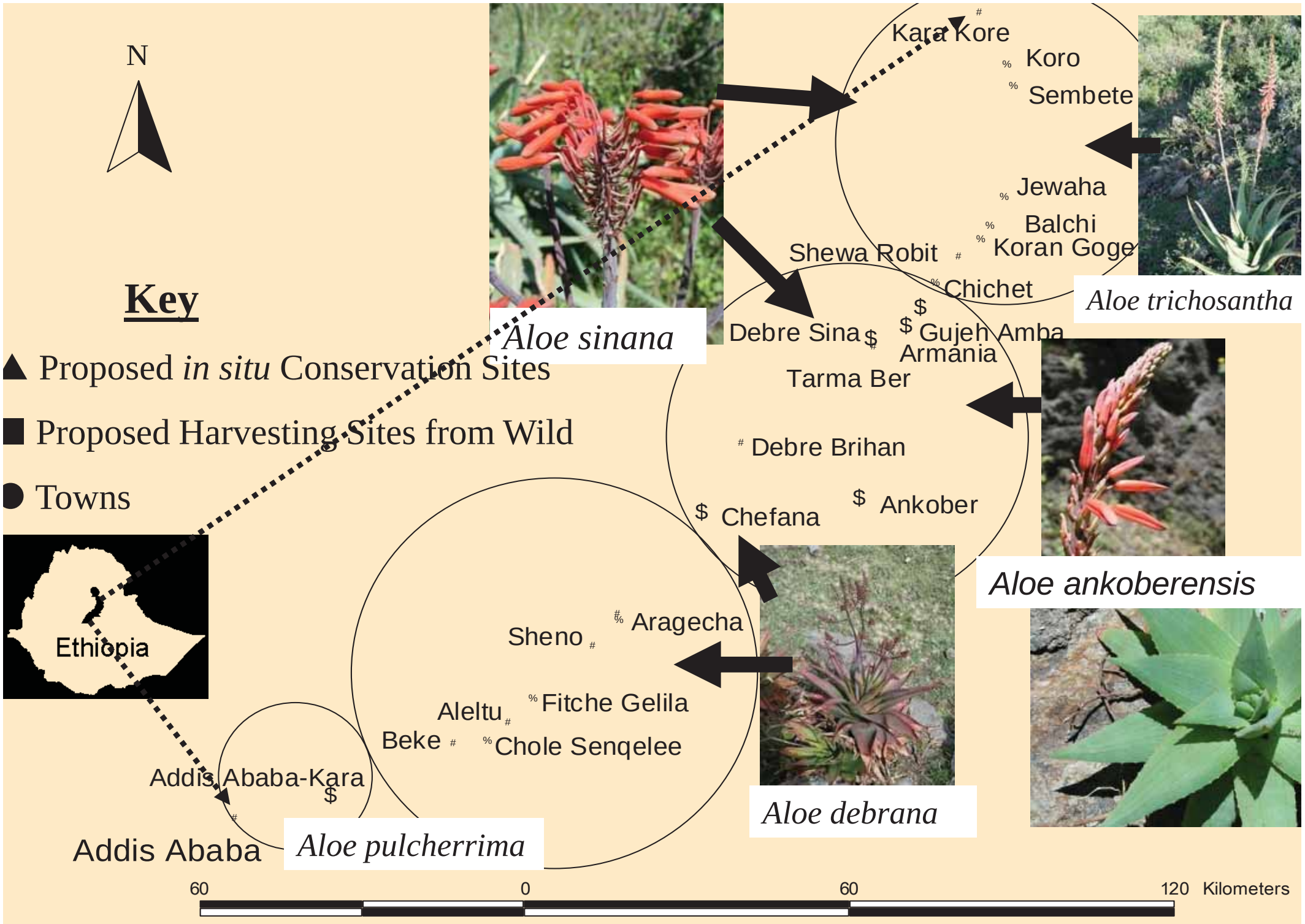
- However, nearly all species of the genus *Aloe*, like the Orchidaceae, are listed in CITES Appendix II and, thus is not recommended to use for commercial purpuse from the wild stand

- Selection of Aloe species with high gel content and launching cultivation is more sound and sustainable
- Until the establishment of Aloe farm, the G-7 Company requested Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute to get permission to harvest *Aloe* leaves from the wild stand in 2009

- In response of the enquiry made by the Company, a team was established from the two institutions with the objective to:
  - Assess the possibility of harvesting from wild stand by looking the
  - abundance,
  - distribution pattern and
  - local uses of various Aloe spices in Ethiopia

- ***Field assessment***
- ***Interview of local communities***
- ***Identification of conservation and harvesting areas***
- **Monitoring sustainable harvesting of the leaves of *Aloe* from the wild stand**

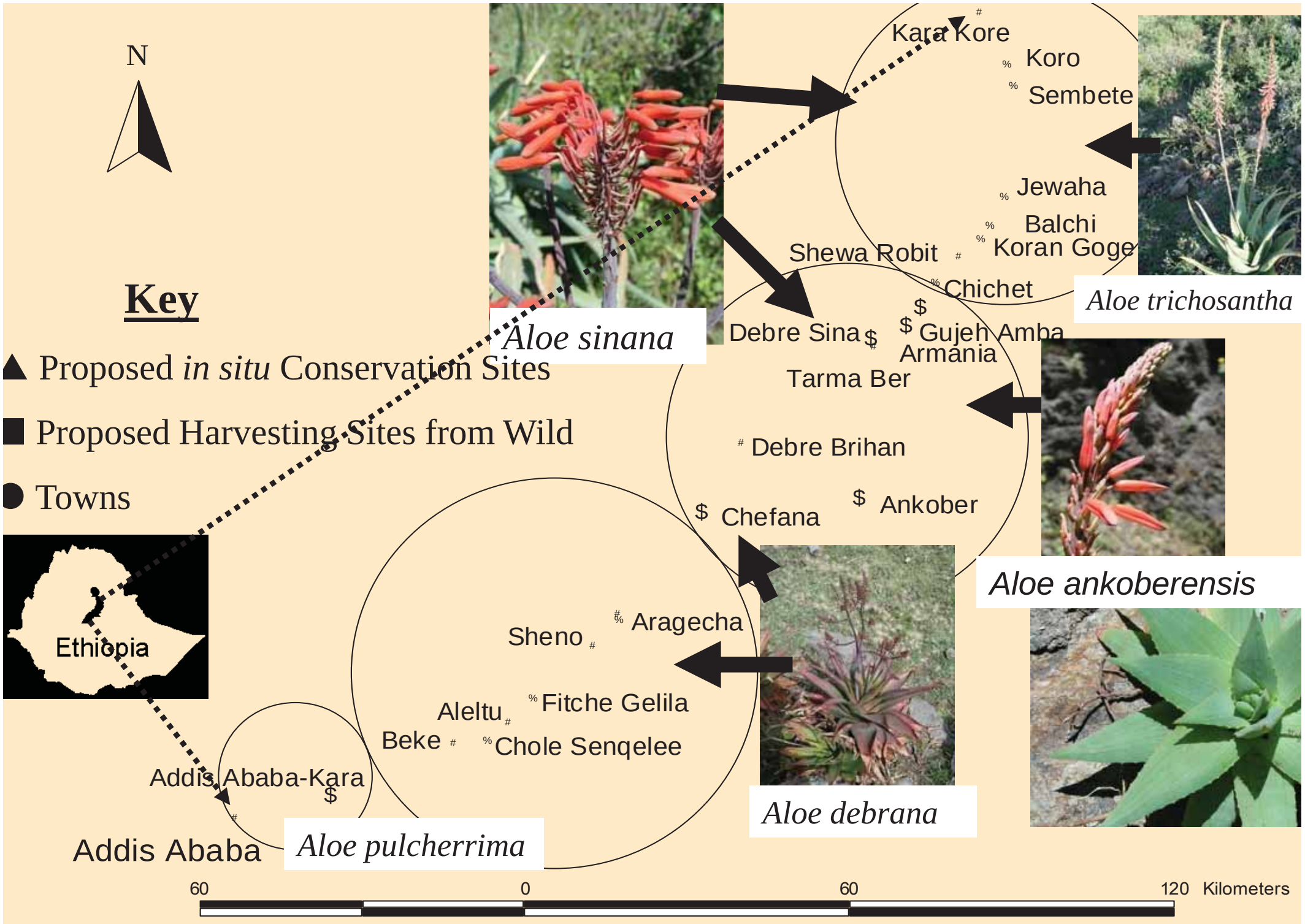
Sites for Conservation and Sustainable Harvesting of Aloe in Northern Shewa, Amhara Region

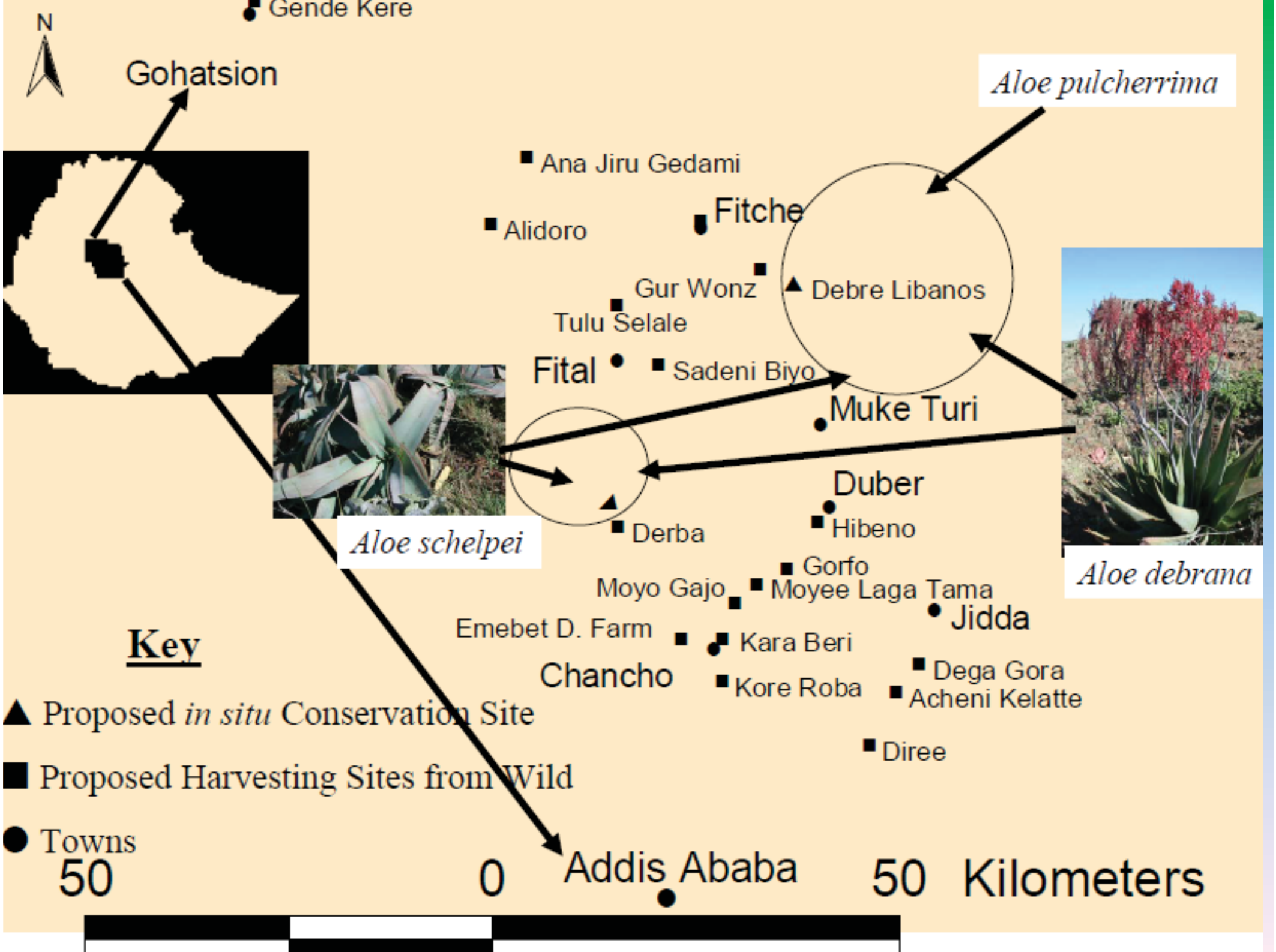


Aloe sinana (Endemic)

Aloe ankoberensis (Endemic)

Sites for Conservation and Sustainable Harvesting of Aloe in Northern Shewa, Amhara Region




Gende Kere
N
Gohatsion
Aloe pulcherrima
Ana Jiru Gedami
Fitche
Alidoro
Gur Wonz
Debre Libanos
Tulu Selale
Fital
Sadeni Biyo
Muke Turi
Duber
Derba
Hibeno
Aloe schelpei
Gorfo
Moyo Gajo
Moyee Laga Tama
Jidda
Emebet D. Farm
Kara Beri
Chancho
Dega Gora
Kore Roba
Acheni Kelatte
Diree
Aloe debrana
Key
Proposed in situ Conservation Site
Proposed Harvesting Sites from Wild
Towns
50
0
Addis Ababa
50 Kilometers

Aloe pulcherrima (Endemic)

Sites for Conservation and Sustainable Harvesting of Aloe around Desse, Amhara Region

Aloe camperi

Lake Hayik

Hayik

Kutaber

Kusambo

N

Ethiopia

Aloe debrana (?)

Titta

Kara Guto

Desse

Jemee/
Shewa Ber

Aloe weloensis

Key

▲ Proposed *in situ* Conservation Sites

■ Proposed Harvesting Sites from Wild

● Towns

10 0 10 Kilometers

Aloe trichosantha

Aloe debrana (Endemic)

b.

Based on the findings of the assessment

Agreement on access to *Aloe* genetic resources

Signed for the **Provider**

_____

_____

_____

Date_____

Signed for the **Company**

_____

_____

_____

Date_____

Signed for a witness

Name	Signature
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Addis Abeba

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3. The scope of access

3.1 The **Provider** agrees that the **Company** can access and use the following *Aloe* species by harvesting leaves from the wild stands.

- *Aloe debrana* Christian: - which is found in the highlands of northern Shewa.
- *Aloe trichosantha* subsp. *longiflora* Gilbert & Sebsebe: - which is found covering the hilly areas over 40 km between Shewa Robit and Kara Kore.

3.2 The **Company** is not allowed to harvest wild *Aloe* species from the following areas which are recommended for conservation of *Aloe* species.

- **Dessie-Combolcha: -** The area between Dessie and Combolcha towns which is a type locality of newly described endemic species- *Aloe weloensis* Sebsebe. In this locality other *Aloe* species like *A. debrana*, *A. camperi* and *A. sinan* are also growing.

- **Debre Brihan-Shewa Robit:-** Type localities of three endemic *Aloe* species namely *Aloe debrana*, *A. ankoberrensis* and *A. sinana* starts 9 km south of Debre Berhan to Shewa Robit along the road from Addis Ababa to Dessise.
- **Debre Libanos: -** Is a holly place with habitat overlap of three *Aloe* species, the area between Debre Tsige and Gurwonz.
- **Muger Valley: -** The Gorge west of Derba village in Northern Shewa, a type locality of *Aloe schelpei*. There is also co-occurrence of *Aloe deberana* on the upper part of the Gorge.

3.3 Under this **agreement,** the **Company** is permitted to use the genetic resource of *Aloe* only for the purpose extracting naturally earned oils in order to replace the batching oil the **Company** has been using by importing from abroad. The **Company** shall not use *Aloe* for any other purpose nor commercialize *Aloe* oil itself to other users or uses unless with agreement from **Provider** in writing to this end.

3.4 The **Company** shall not access the traditional knowledge of local communities on the use and application of *Aloe* nor claim any right over such traditional knowledge without the consent of local communities in writing.

3.5 The **Company** is agreed to work together with the **Provider** to develop a standard for sustainable use of *Aloe* genetic resource and mechanism to control smuggling of *Aloe* from conservation areas.

4. Intellectual property ownership

The **Company** shall neither claim nor obtain intellectual property rights over the genetic resource of *Aloe* or every any component thereof and the Indigenous knowledge associated with the application of *Aloe* oil.

5. Transfer to third parties

The **Company** shall not transfer *Aloe* samples or any component of the genetic resources of *Aloe* to third parties without first having explicit written consent from the **Provider**.

6. Effect of the agreement

The **Provider** shall always retain the authority to grant other parties access to any genetic resources of *Aloe*.

7. Benefit Sharing

7.1 The **Company** shall involve if, and to the extent, necessary the technical staff of the **Provider** in the research and laboratory test it undertakes on *Aloe*. It shall also share to the **Provider** the results of such research and laboratory tests.

7.2 The **Company** shall give priority to local communities to supply *Aloe* leaves as raw material. To this end, the **Company** shall provide training to local communities in the collection and supply of *Aloe* leaves to the **Company,** as appropriate.

8. Condition of Use

8.1 The **Company** shall ensure that the collection of *Aloe* leave does not exceed the sustainable use limit of the resource. To this end, it shall, in particular, observe the standard for the sustainable use of *Aloe* to be developed jointly with the **Provider**.

8.2 The **Company** shall look for a sustainable option to harvesting from the wild i.e., establishment of **Company**'s own farm in due time.

9. Duration of Agreement

9.1 This agreement is for a period of five years. The parties may conclude agreement by mutual consent upon the expiry of the duration of this agreement.

9.2 Notwithstanding the provision of sub-article 9.1 above, the **Provider** shall have the right to totally cancel this agreement at any time before the duration of this agreement expires in case of any misappropriation on the use of the genetic material by the **Company**.

10. Monitoring and follow-up

10.1 The **Company** shall submit to the **Provider** Biannual report on the collection, status, sustainable use and research performed on *Aloe* genetic resource.

10.2 The **Provider** has the right to monitor at any moment, the management of the genetic resource as well as the relevant administrative details of the items covered by this **agreement**.

Biannual monitoring

- Existence of sustainable use of target and non-target Aloe population/Mismanagement
- Absence of conflict of interest that may affect Aloe population
- Economic benefit of local people engaged in Aloe economics

Harvesting matured leaves of *Aloe debrana*

Mismanagement- *Aloe debrana*

Use of *Aloe debrana* for soil and water conservation

Conclusion

- A genetic material that has been unknown in the countries economy become the back bone of coffee export
- Local communities are very happy in getting new source of income
- Although access to two Aloe species was granted, only one species was utilized
- The area coverage is also much less than permitted
- No impact have been reported

- The agreement period is over and re-negotiation is required
  - If we push the company to establish its own Aloe farm, the benefit and interest of conservation of Aloe will decrease among local communities
  - Conducting research on various aspects are required for sound decision